

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, January 14, 2015

SUNNY SPIN



Obama Sits With New Republican-Run Congress

President Barack Obama, joined by House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, left, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., right, speaks to media before his meeting with bipartisan, bicameral leadership of Congress to discuss a wide range of issues, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)
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AP Investigation:

Obama's cybersecurity plans part of decade-old programs



President Barack Obama speaks at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center in Arlington, Va., Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015. Obama renewed his call for Congress to pass cybersecurity legislation, including a proposal that encourages companies to share threat information with the government and protects them from potential lawsuits if they do.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

JACK GILLUM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres-

ident Barack Obama said Tuesday that recent cyberthreats to Sony and the military's U.S. Central Command are reminders of the serious threats facing the nation. But an Associated Press review shows that some of his plans are re-treads from years past.

Obama laid out his plans this week as part of a push for new cybersecurity legislation — a week before his State of the Union address — that increases government information-sharing and protects businesses from lawsuits for revealing cyberthreats.

Yet the president's proposals are similar to congressional legislation that has been languishing on Capitol Hill, in part over privacy concerns. The White House is hoping a recent spate of cyberattacks and data breaches — including November's hacking at Sony Pictures Entertainment, which the administration blamed on North Korea — will spur lawmakers to take up the issue.

Privacy advocates also criticized other elements of this plan this week, especially involving data-sharing between companies and the government, in light of an ongoing debate about the

scope of U.S. government surveillance and bulk-data collection.

The president unveiled his plans Tuesday at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center just outside Washington, saying cyberthreats pose "an enormous challenge" in which the U.S. must be "upping our game." He said cybercriminals are doing as much damage, or more, than traditional criminals.

"As a nation, we are making progress. We are more prepared to deal with cyberattacks, but attackers are getting more sophisticated," Obama said. "All of us — government and industry — need to be doing better."

A key part of the proposals, which have received support from some Republicans in Congress, would enable cybersecurity information-sharing between U.S. agencies and the private sector. But that sharing has already been taking place — with uneven results — for more than 16 years.

President Bill Clinton established the earliest Information Sharing and Analysis Centers in May 1998. These were intended to collect, analyze and distribute warnings about cyberthreats within eight of the

most important U.S. industries, including banking, transportation, communications and energy.

In 2003, President George W. Bush moved responsibility for the warning centers from the FBI's now-defunct National Infrastructure Protection Center to the Homeland Security Department. The warning centers have since been expanded to cover 16 critical industries, and others — such as one covering retail stores — have launched separately. Some of the warning centers, such as the ones protecting banks and computer companies, are highly regarded. But others have been marked by uneven cooperation among members and con-

fusion about roles during a cyberattack.

The government's own \$6.4 million Cyber Storm II exercise in March 2008, which simulated a large-scale cyberattack, revealed some confusion about alerts and fouled communications lines, such as when the Homeland Security Department shut off an encrypted message system over security concerns.

Obama's plan would encourage the private sector to share cyberthreat information with the Homeland Security Department, according to a White House factsheet. Companies would qualify for targeted liability protection but would have to comply with certain privacy restrictions.

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Obama Sits With New Republican-Run Congress

JOSH LEDERMAN

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama and leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives paid lip service Tuesday to the notion of bipartisanship in their first meeting since the Republicans assumed full control of Congress.

But neither side appeared to give ground on Republican priorities that have been met with a flurry of veto threats from the White House.

As he opened Tuesday's meeting, Obama urged leaders to stake out areas of compromise on trade, tax reform and cybersecurity, saying he was hopeful that "a spirit of cooperation and putting America first" will prevail. The president was flanked by House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the two Republicans now in charge of Congress.

Obama's sunny spin on Washington's new power dynamic was at odds with



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio listens at left as President Barack Obama speaks to media as he meets with bipartisan, bicameral leadership of Congress to discuss a wide range of issues, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

much of what has played out in the week since the new Congress was seated. Republicans have taken aim at core elements of the president's agenda, including legislation on immigration and health care that the White House has vowed to veto. Boehner appeared to

double down on the Republican strategy in Tuesday's meeting. His office said he made clear that the House would push forward on a bill that would block the president's executive actions on immigration and also urged the president to sign a bill approving construction of

the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry oil from Canada to the U.S.

The Keystone measure and immigration bill are among the five veto threats the White House has issued in the week since Congress returned to Washington.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest took a sharper tone than the president, saying the Republicans' approach raises questions "about how serious they are about trying to work with the president."

"In the first five days that they've been in session, they've advanced five pieces of legislation all the way to the rules committee that they already know this president strongly opposes," Earnest said.

Despite the areas of disagreement, the White House and Boehner both raised the prospect of working together on trade, overhauling the nation's complex tax code, and cybersecurity.

The president renewed his call for Congress to pass legislation encouraging the private sector to share cyberthreat data with the

government and shield companies from lawsuits if they opt to do so.

"I think we agreed that this is an area where we can work hard together, get some legislation done and make sure that we are much more effective in protecting the American people from these kinds of cyberattacks," Obama said.

Boehner's office concurred, saying "Republicans are ready to work with both parties to address this important issue and put some common-sense measures on the president's desk."

The White House said the president also updated lawmakers on foreign policy issues, including the military campaign against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. Obama has called on Congress to vote on a new authorization for use of military force that would be a guidepost for that effort. Boehner and other Republicans have said they want the White House to write the authorization, then send it to Congress for votes. □

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US House Republican seeks stiffer sanctions on N. Korea

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Amid calls for stiffer action against North Korea, the Obama administration told Congress on Tuesday the U.S. response to the Sony Pictures cyberattack was only the first step to further isolate the country over its nuclear and missile programs and human rights abuses.

Earlier this month, President Barack Obama signed an executive order to target

officials and front companies of the North Korean government. Rep. Ed Royce, the chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, said more needs to be done because most of those blacklisted had already been targeted by U.S. sanctions.

"Last year's cyberattack is estimated to have cost Sony hundreds of millions of dollars in damage," Royce, a Republican, said during a committee briefing on North Korea. □

New York City: Judges review surveillance of Muslims by police

MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A federal appeals court appeared concerned Tuesday that the New York Police Department may have spied on Muslim groups following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks solely because of their religion.

The three-judge panel questioned whether police had any specific leads to justify the surveillance of Muslim businesses, mosques and student groups in New Jersey following 9/11.

The practice went on from 2002 to at least 2012, according to a lawsuit filed by several Muslim groups.

U.S. District Judge William Martini had thrown the lawsuit out, concluding that police could not keep watch "on Muslim terrorist activities without monitoring the Muslim community itself."

However, the judges on the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals questioned Tuesday why the surveillance wasn't more targeted.

"You've got to admit there are a lot of people in this country that (became) prejudiced against Mus-



Protesters demonstrate after Muslim residents of New Jersey were in court to try to reverse a ruling that found New York City police could legally monitor their activities, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, outside the U.S. Courthouse in Philadelphia.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

lims after 9/11," U.S. Circuit Judge Jane R. Roth said. "Whether that includes the people who have instituted the surveillance practice in New York City — how can we know at this point?" The Muslim plaintiffs — including an Iraq War veteran, a school principal and members of the Muslim Student Association at Rutgers University — hope to have the lawsuit revived so they can learn more about the program.

Mother of teen to Islamic State says 'Leave our children alone!'

MICHAEL TARM

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The suburban Chicago mother of a 19-year-old American facing a terrorist charge for trying to join the Islamic State militants accused the group on Tuesday of brainwashing youths into joining their ranks via social media. And she declared, "Leave our children alone!"

Mohammed Hamzah Khan's mother cried softly as she read her statement in a lobby at a Chicago federal courthouse. Minutes earlier, her son had pleaded not guilty to attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist group. It carries a

maximum 15-year prison term.

Zarine Khan, flanked by her husband, Shafi, said her family felt compelled to speak out in the wake of "unspeakable acts of horror" in Paris last week that killed 17. One gunman reportedly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, while two others cited al-Qaida.

"The venom spewed by these groups and the violence committed by them ... are completely at odds with our Islamic faith," she said. She added, "We condemn the brainwashing and recruiting of children through the use of social media and the Internet."

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MetLife challenging US regulators' high-risk label

MICHELLE CHAPMAN

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — In the first legal challenge to a U.S. body that arose from the financial crisis, MetLife is challenging its designation by regulators as a potential threat to the financial system.

MetLife Inc., the largest U.S. insurance company by assets, announced Tuesday that it is taking the government to court to appeal its assessment by the Financial Stability Oversight Council as "systemically important." That means regulators believe MetLife is so big and entwined with the financial system that it could threaten the economy if it collapsed.

The oversight council, a group of top federal regulators created by the 2010 Wall Street overhaul law to monitor the financial system, decided last month to label MetLife as systemically important. The designation brings stricter government oversight and, MetLife says, exorbitant costs.

MetLife will be required to increase its cushion of

capital held in reserve against losses, limit its use of borrowed money and submit to inspections by examiners. New York-based MetLife will come under the supervision of the Federal Reserve. Its primary regulator has been New York state.

The Financial Stability panel

that some financial institutions are so big and crucial to the system that the government would step in to rescue them if they veered toward collapse. That's what happened in the 2008 crisis, with hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer aid going to big U.S. banks and other financial institu-

tions. national Group Inc., General Electric Capital Corp. — the finance arm of General Electric Co. — and Prudential Financial Inc. They did not appeal the designation. But MetLife insists that tougher requirements on life insurance companies would force the companies to raise the prices of their products, reduce the amount of risk they take on in their products, or stop offering some products altogether. Capital requirements for banks were established to protect depositors, rather than ensuring that life insurers can meet their obligations to policyholders, the company says.

MetLife is filing suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.

Analyst Steven Schwartz of Raymond James said MetLife is afraid of the Fed developing capital rules that are more restrictive than the states and credit rating agencies.

"If MetLife is required to hold even more capital than currently required by the rating agencies, then it could be at a disadvan-

tage in pricing products," Schwartz said.

The FSOC is led by Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and includes Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and Mary Jo White, chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Treasury spokeswoman Suzanne Elio said Tuesday that the council has been notified of MetLife's legal action.

"The council's decision to designate a nonbank financial company is reached only after a thorough analysis and extensive engagement with the company, both of which occurred in this case. We are confident in the council's work," Elio said.

The near-collapse of AIG in 2008 helped trigger the financial crisis, and it received a \$182 billion federal bailout that it has since repaid.

MetLife, which has a market capitalization of about \$57 billion, said the designation will increase costs for consumers. It serves approximately 100 million customers and has operations in almost 50 countries.



The MetLife building overlooks a shorter building in New York. MetLife said Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, that it is going to ask a federal judge to review its designation as a "too big to fail" company.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

was empowered by the 2010 law to tag certain companies for stricter supervision as a way to end "too big to fail" — the idea

tion. MetLife was the fourth non-bank financial firm to be given the label. The other three are American Inter-

Unions intensifying attacks on new emerging free-trade pact

TOM RAUM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just over two decades after lobbying unsuccessfully against the North American Free Trade Agreement, U.S. labor unions are again voicing strong reservations to a proposed major trade-liberalization deal.

At issue now is the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a measure expected to call for lowering or eliminating

most trade barriers among the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim nations. The pact is still being hammered out in closed-door negotiations. Union leaders and other critics say that the proposed pact would prompt U.S. companies to funnel manufacturing jobs to lower-wage countries. Environmental and human rights groups also are voicing strong opposition. It's a familiar theme. After

all, former independent presidential candidate Ross Perot warned that NAFTA would create "a giant sucking sound" as jobs left the United States for Mexico. So far, the economic consequences of NAFTA have seemed mixed — not as dire as Perot predicted nor as positive as former President Bill Clinton once forecast. The current Pacific Rim free-trade debate pits many fellow Democrats

against President Barack Obama. Some Democratic critics have depicted the Pacific free-trade deal, and a companion trans-Atlantic pact expected to follow, as "NAFTA on steroids."

As with NAFTA, which linked the economies of the United States, Mexico and Canada and created what is now the world's largest free-trade zone, the Pacific free-trade proposal generally has stronger sup-

port among Republicans in Congress than Democrats. Up to now, Congress has shown little inclination to grant Obama trade promotion authority powers — called "fast track" — that allow only yes-or-no votes on trade agreements with no amendments permitted. Fast-track authority had been routinely granted by Congress to presidents in past major trade negotiations, including NAFTA.

Federal deficit for Q1 up slightly at \$176.7B

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal deficit for the first three months of the budget year is up slightly from the same period a year ago, reflecting the absence of a special payment from mortgage company Freddie Mac that helped narrow the gap in 2014. The Treasury Department reported Tuesday that the government ran a deficit of \$176.7 billion for the first three months of the current budget year, which began Oct. 1. That is up 2.4 percent from a \$172.6 billion imbalance for the same three months in the 2014 budget year.

However, last year's books were helped by a special \$24 billion payment Freddie Mac provided the government for support it received during the financial crisis. Budget experts still believe this year's deficit will still be lower than last year.

Both Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are still making quarterly payments to the government, even though the payments from both companies now have exceeded the \$187.3 billion in taxpayer aid they received during the financial crisis.

For December, the government had a \$1.9 billion surplus, down from a surplus of \$53.2 billion in December 2013, the month of the special Freddie Mac payment. The government has run surpluses in 25 of the last 61 Decembers, a month when corporate tax payments boost revenues.

The Congressional Budget Office is forecasting that the deficit for the 2015 budget year through September will fall to \$469 billion from \$483.3 billion in 2014. That would be an improvement of 3 percent for the full year.

Through the first three months of this budget year, revenues totaled \$739.5 billion, up 11 percent from the same period a year ago. Outlays came to \$916.1 billion, a 9.2 percent increase from a year ago.

Congress in December approved a \$1.1 trillion spending bill that will fund most of the government through Sept. 30, eliminating the threat of a government shutdown through the current budget year. The one exception was the Department of Homeland Security, which was funded only to Feb. 27. Republicans intend to use the spending deadline for Homeland Security to try to force President Barack Obama to roll back his immigration policy that removed the threat of deportation from millions of immigrants living in the United States illegally.

Congress, with both the Senate and House under Republican control, will get a proposed budget from Obama covering the 2016 fiscal year on Feb. 2, setting off months of debate over setting spending priorities for next year.

After this year, the CBO is forecasting that deficits will resume rising as baby boomers retire and Social Security and Medicare costs rise. The CBO and other budget experts have warned that the current trajectory for the deficit is unsustainable and could eventually lead to a fiscal crisis.

The \$483.3 billion deficit for 2014 was the smallest since George W. Bush's last full year as president. When measured against the size of the economy, the 2014 deficit equaled 2.8 percent of gross domestic product, below the average for the last four decades. By comparison, the deficit for 2013 was \$680 billion, or 4.1 percent of GDP.

US Financial Front: American job openings at 14-year high

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) The rapid hiring that made 2014 a stellar year for job gains is showing no sign of slowing down.

U.S. employers advertised the most job openings in nearly 14 years in November, the Labor Department said Tuesday. That suggests businesses are determined to keep adding staff because they are confident strong economic

of job gains or losses. Tuesday's data on job openings is from the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, or JOLTS, which provides a more detailed look at the job market than the monthly employment report. It also includes figures for overall hiring, as well as the number of quits and layoffs.

Hiring, as reported in the JOLTS report, slipped to 4.99 million in November from a nearly seven-year high of



Jacob Robinson, left, of Epic, an electronic health record software company, speaks with students attending The Foot in the Door Career Fair at the University of Illinois Springfield in Springfield, Ill. The Labor Department issued its November report on job openings and labor turnover on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015.

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

growth will create more demand for their goods and services.

Job openings rose 2.9 percent to 4.97 million in November, the most since January 2001. More job vacancies generally lead to more hiring. Employers have been slow to fill their openings for most of the recovery, but that started to change last year as companies ramped up their overall hiring.

There are always some open jobs even in a depressed economy. Job vacancies fell to 2.1 million in July 2009, one month after the Great Recession ended. Vacancies have soared in the past year, raising questions about why they aren't being filled more quickly.

Last week's jobs report showed that employers added 252,000 jobs in December, capping the strongest year for hiring in 15 years.

Yet that figure is a net total

5.1 million in October.

The number of open jobs has risen a blistering 21 percent in the 12 months ending in November. Yet total hiring has increased only 9.1 percent.

Economists offer several reasons why businesses aren't filling their vacancies more quickly:

--Many employers are too picky and expect to find a large pool of highly-qualified applicants because unemployment is still elevated. There are 8.7 million Americans out of work and 7 million more who are working part-time but would prefer full-time jobs. "Many companies still think they are living in a world of unlimited supply where they can pick and choose employees as they please," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. That keeps available jobs open for longer.

--The unemployed don't have the right skills for the jobs that are available. This

view assumes that there are millions of unemployed construction workers or factory employees, for example, who aren't able to find work in growing sectors such as health care. There are some highly-skilled jobs in software development or advanced manufacturing that do appear to be hard to fill. But some economists point out that there are more unemployed workers than open jobs in nearly every major industry. If there was a so-called "skills mismatch," you would expect to see that in only some industries.

--Employers may not be offering high enough pay to attract needed employees. Average hourly wages actually slipped in December, according to Friday's jobs report, even as hiring has been robust. Hourly pay increased just 1.7 percent in 2014, barely ahead of the 1.3 percent inflation rate. There are a few signs this could soon change: Aetna said Monday that it would raise its minimum hourly wage to \$16 an hour, boosting income for about 5,700 employees.

There were 1.8 unemployed workers on average for each opening in November, about the same as before the recession. That is down sharply from the peak of 6.7 just after the recession. That suggests that employers could soon be forced to offer higher pay to attract new employees. A second report Tuesday from the National Federation of Independent Business, a small business group, added to the positive outlook. An NFIB monthly index of small business optimism rose in December to its highest level since October 2006. Business owners surveyed by the group were also more likely to add jobs than at any point since the recession ended in June 2009.

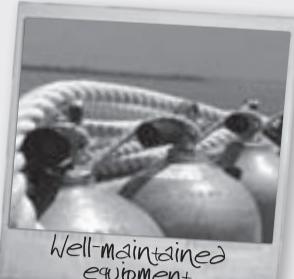
"There's no question that small business owners are feeling better about the economy," NFIB chief economist Bill Dunkelberg said.

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Tiny Cokes: Less guilt means more money for makers

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans want to cut back on soda, and they're willing to pay more to do it.

With people drinking less soda amid health concerns, Coke and Pepsi are pushing smaller cans and bottles that contain fewer calories and, they say, induce less guilt. That all comes at a price: Those cute little cans can cost more than twice as much per ounce.

The shift means 7.5-ounce "mini-cans" and 8-ounce and 8.5-ounce glass and aluminum bottles are taking up more space on supermarket shelves. The cans and bottles have been around for a few years, but Coke and Pepsi are making them more widely available and marketing them more aggressively.

As part of its "Share-a-Coke" campaign that printed popular names on cans and bottles last year, for instance, Coke says it distrib-



A 7.5-ounce can of Coca-Cola, left, is posed next to a 12-ounce can for comparison, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015 in Philadelphia. As people cut back on soda, the two beverage giants, Coke and Pepsi, are increasingly pushing smaller cans and bottles they say contain fewer calories and induce less guilt. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

uted a million mini-cans.

The focus on pushing smaller packages signals a shift from the past couple of decades, when beverage makers measured success by the sheer volume of soda they

sold. Yet soda consumption has declined persistently in recent years, with public health officials blaming it for making people fat and calling for special taxes and even warning labels on

cans.

Soda hit its peak in 1998, when Americans on average drank the equivalent of 576 cans of it a year, according to data from the industry tracker Beverage

Digest. That figure was down to about 450 cans a year in 2013.

Instead of fighting what seems to be a losing battle, Coke and Pepsi are pushing smaller cans and bottles that give their products a sense of newness among the growing proliferation of beverage choices. The companies also say the tiny sizes cater to people's desire for more modest servings.

"Coca-Cola is so delicious, but it's like sun tanning or cigarettes — they're these wonderful things that we now know are horrible for us," said Lauren Utvich, a 31-year-old food stylist in New York, who bought the Coke mini-cans when she first spotted them.

Utvich doesn't normally drink soda, but she likes that the mini-cans turn Coke into a relatively guiltless treat. But that's not the only reason she bought them. "Let's be honest. I like them because they're freaking adorable," said Utvich, who didn't pay attention to how much they cost. During a presentation in November, Coke's North American president Sandy Douglas said the health and wellness trend has set up a tremendous opportunity for the Coca-Cola brand with our smaller packages."

He noted a regular 12-ounce can of Coke on average sell for 31 cents. By comparison, a 7.5-ounce mini-can sells for 40 cents. That translates to 2.6 cents-per-ounce for a regular can, versus 5.3 cents-per-ounce for the mini version. Coca-Cola said that while it may be selling less soda, smaller packs are pushing up revenue. Sales of Coke's smaller sizes — which include a 1.25-liter bottle as an alternative to the 2-liter bottle — were up 9 percent last year through October, according to the presentation by Douglas. □

Poll:

Americans support labeling genetically modified foods

MARY JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A large majority of Americans support labeling of genetically modified foods, whether they care about eating them or not.

According to a December Associated Press-GfK poll, 66 percent of Americans favor requiring food manufacturers to put labels on products that contain genetically modified organisms, or foods grown from seeds engineered in labs. Only 7 percent are opposed to the idea, and 24 percent are neutral.

Fewer Americans say genetically modified ingredients are important to them when

judging whether a food is healthy. About 4 in 10 said the presence of such ingredients was very or extremely important to them.

That's higher than the share who say it's important to know whether a food is organic, and about on par with the share saying they consider the amount of protein in a food an important factor.

Genetically modified seeds are engineered to have certain traits, such as resistance to herbicides or certain plant diseases. Most of the country's corn and soybean crop is now genetically modified, with much of that becoming animal feed. Modified corn and soy-

beans are also made into popular processed food ingredients such as corn oil, corn starch, high-fructose corn syrup and soybean oil. The federal Food and Drug Administration doesn't require labeling of genetically modified foods, saying those on the market are safe. Consumer advocates backing labeling say shoppers have a right to know what is in their food, arguing not enough is known about their effects.

The AP-GfK poll comes as several states have weighed in on the issue. Vermont became the first state to require labels for genetically modified foods last year, passing a law in

May that will take effect mid-2016 if it survives legal challenges. Maine and Connecticut passed laws before Vermont, but those measures don't take effect unless neighboring states follow suit. Ballot initiatives to require labeling were narrowly defeated in California, Washington and Oregon in recent years.

The food industry and seed companies have aggressively fought attempts to force labeling, and have pushed a bill in Congress that would block those efforts. The Republican bill would reaffirm that such food labels are voluntary, overriding any state laws that require them. □



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France's PM demands tougher anti-terrorism measures

LORI HINNANT

ANGELA CHARLTON,
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's prime minister demanded tougher anti-terrorism measures Tuesday after deadly attacks that some call this country's Sept. 11 — and that may already be leading to a crackdown on liberties in exchange for greater security.

Police told The Associated Press that the weapons used came from abroad, as authorities in several countries searched for possible accomplices and the sources of financing for last week's attacks on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, a kosher market and police. A new suspect was identified in Bulgaria.

"We must not lower our guard, at any time," Prime Minister Manuel Valls told Parliament, adding that "serious and very high risks remain."

Lawmakers in the often argumentative chamber lined up overwhelmingly behind the government, giving repeated standing ovations to Valls' rousing,

indignant address — and then voted 488-1 to extend French airstrikes against Islamic State extremists in Iraq.

"France is at war against terrorism, jihadism, and radical Islamism," Valls declared. "France is not at war against Islam."

He called for increased surveillance of imprisoned radicals and told the interior minister to quickly come up with new security proposals.

French police say as many as six members of the terrorist cell that carried out the Paris attacks may still be at large, including a man seen driving a car registered to the widow of one of the gunmen. The country has deployed 10,000 troops to protect sensitive sites, including Jewish schools and synagogues, mosques and travel hubs.

Several people are being sought in connection with the "substantial" financing of the three gunmen behind the terror campaign, said Christophe Crepin, a French police union official. The gunmen's weap-

ons stockpile came from abroad, and the size of it, plus the military sophistication of the attacks, indicated an organized terror network, he added.

"This cell did not include

rocket launcher — it's not like buying a baguette on the corner. It's for targeted acts."

In a sign that French judicial authorities were using laws against defending ter-



French prime minister Manuel Valls delivers his speech during an homage to the 17 victims of last week terrorist attacks, at the French national Assembly in Paris, Tuesday Jan. 13, 2015.
 (AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

just those three. We think with all seriousness that they had accomplices, because of the weaponry, the logistics and the costs of it," Crepin said. "These are heavy weapons. When I talk about things like a

rorism to their fullest extent, a man who had praised the terror attacks while resisting arrest on a drunk driving violation was swiftly sentenced to four years in prison.

While the attacks have

left France in jitters, some warned against going as far as a French version of the U.S. Patriot Act passed after Sept. 11.

"This must not lead to the renouncing of fundamental freedoms, otherwise we prove right those who come to fight on our soil," former Prime Minister Francois Fillon said on France-Inter radio.

The investigation spread to yet another country: A Bulgarian prosecutor announced that a Frenchman jailed since Jan. 1 had ties to Cherif Kouachi, one of the brothers who carried out the Charlie Hebdo attack. The man, identified by French prosecutors as Joachim Fritz-Joly, was arrested as he tried to cross into Turkey. He was facing two European arrest warrants, one citing his alleged links to a terrorist organization and a second for allegedly kidnapping his 3-year-old son and smuggling him out of the country, said Darina Slavova, the regional prosecutor for Bulgaria's southern province of Haskovo. □

12 dead in bus attack that could doom Ukraine's shaky truce

MSTYSLAV CHERNOV
PETER LEONARD

Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — An attack on a passenger bus in eastern Ukraine killed 12 people Tuesday, likely dealing the final blow to hopes that a short-lived and shaky cease-fire could take hold.

Across Donetsk, the city that Russian-backed separatists call their capital, explosions and the sound of shells whistling overhead are again unnerving the local population. The holiday period was spent in relative tranquility after a new

truce was called in December between government troops and Russian-backed militia. But by late last week, that uneasy calm was steadily unraveling.

In the single largest loss of life so far this year, civilians traveling on a commuter bus from Donetsk were killed Tuesday afternoon by what Ukrainians say were rockets fired from a Grad launcher in rebel territory. Regional authorities loyal to Kiev said the bus was passing a Ukrainian army checkpoint at the time, putting it in the line of fire.

Leading rebel representa-

tive Denis Pushilin denied responsibility for the attack. The warring sides are now trading accusations over who is responsible for the breakdown in the truce that led to Tuesday's deaths.

Military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said that separatist attacks in recent days suggest an attempted onslaught to push back the frontline is under way. Separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko said Ukraine's armed forces unilaterally resumed hostilities and that his fighters would respond in kind.

An AP reporter over the

weekend saw a convoy of around 30 military-style trucks without license plates heading for Donetsk, suggesting that new supplies were coming in for the rebels.

NATO's top commander, Gen. Philip Breedlove, said Tuesday that there has been a continued resupply and training of rebel forces over the holiday period.

"Those continue to provide a concern and something that we have to be thinking about," Breedlove said.

Ukraine and the West have routinely accused Russia of being behind such con-

signments. Moscow flatly rejects the charges, although rebel forces are so well-equipped with powerful arms that the denials have become increasingly hollow.

"These are separatists that are clearly backed by Russia," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Tuesday, adding that Russia must do more to stop the violence and restore Ukrainian sovereignty.

In the rebel-held Donetsk suburb of Makivka, the thrash of outgoing mortars shakes still-inhabited neighborhoods on a daily basis. □



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As world watches Paris, Nigeria suffers its own attacks

C. TORCHIA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP)

— Nigeria's president was among leaders who condemned last week's attack by Islamic extremists on the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, yet his response to the slaughter of civilians by militants in his own country has been muted.

Some commentators criticized President Goodluck Jonathan's reticence about the violence in Nigeria's Baga town, and the lack of a broader international outcry on par with the reaction to the attacks in France. The slogan "I am Baga" — a play on "I am Charlie," the expression of solidarity with the targeted French weekly — is now circulating on social media.

The global sympathy and the defiant rally in Paris that drew foreign leaders after the assaults that killed 17 people overshadowed the killing of hundreds and perhaps as many as 2,000 people in Baga, a north-eastern town near Chad. Jonathan, who has been touting his domestic record ahead of a re-election bid next month, was quick to express solidarity with France.

"The President believes that the cowardly and ignoble attack by violent extremists is a monstrous assault on the right to freedom of expression," said a statement by his office the day after the attacks in France.

It did not release a similarly forceful statement about Baga. The attack there

started on Jan. 3 and was another bloody marker in a murky, grinding conflict in which information is often scarce, the insurgency is seen by many as a local problem and violence is routine.

The United Nations, the United States and other countries have condemned the violence by Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, and international aid groups are mobilizing to help survivors.

On Monday, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf expressed some exasperation with the comparatively little interest in Nigeria's killings after taking a barrage of questions from media about the weekend rally in Paris.

"I would like to see how many minutes we spend on Boko Haram compared to a march," Harf told the State Department press corps. "I just want to point that out to people."

The difference between the reactions to the bloodshed in Paris and in Baga also is related to the broader context, experts say.

The Paris shootings, whose victims included prominent cartoonists, had an enormous impact beyond France's borders because they were seen as an assault on "fundamental liberty" and an "existential attack on all of Europe," said Michael Jennings, a senior lecturer in international development at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

The violence in Nigeria, however, does not capture similar attention because it "is often presented as part of the ongoing history of violence between communities," Jennings said.

Muna Ndulo, a law professor and African development expert at Cornell Uni-



The ruins of burnt out houses stand in Baga village in Nigeria. Hundreds of bodies — too many to count — remain strewn in the bush in Nigeria from an Islamic extremist attack that Amnesty International suggested Friday is the "deadliest massacre" in the history of Boko Haram.

(AP Photo/Haruna Umar)

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versity in the United States, noted that whereas in Paris the media presence was heavy and many events played out before the cameras, "in Nigeria, you still have to contend with actually trying to ascertain what exactly went on. To some extent, that does affect the way people look at things."

Survivors of the Baga killings described the horrors they witnessed but independent reporting from the scene is virtually impossible for now because the town remains under Boko Haram control. Accounts of the numbers of casualties vary widely. The Nigerian military said 150 people were confirmed dead, but other estimates put the toll at several hundred and as high as 2,000.

Additionally, Ndulo said, the attackers in Paris were French citizens of foreign descent who said they were inspired by al-Qaida and the Islamic State, raising sensitive questions of "inclusivity" and immigration and security policy that many countries can relate to because they face similar tensions within their own populations. In contrast, many fighters in the home-grown Boko Haram movement are Nigerians who may feel alienated by poverty and poor governance, he said. Jennings warned about the perils of viewing Boko Haram, which recently seized a military base in neighboring Cameroon, as a local problem. □



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5 killed, 2 missing in St. Vincent after school bus crash

DUGGIE JOSEPH
Associated Press

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (AP)

— A small bus packed with secondary students on their way to class plunged off a seaside cliff Monday on the island of St. Vincent, killing at least five children. Authorities were searching for two others who were unaccounted for after the crash. The minibus was full, with about 21 people, including the driver, a conductor and another adult, at the time of the crash, Police Commissioner Michael Charles said. It struck a utility pole and went off the cliff, falling about 20 feet to the rocks on the northern Atlantic Ocean side of the small island.

Fourteen of those on board the bus were hospitalized, according to the Ministry of Health, but no details were provided on their conditions. The driver was injured, but survived the crash and assisted in the rescue efforts, the ministry said in a statement.

Coast Guard boats and police searched for the missing girls but it was a difficult effort amid heavy surf along the rocky coast.

The cause of the accident is under investigation, Charles said.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves called the crash a "tragedy of national proportions," and canceled the annual budget speech he was scheduled to deliver Monday to Parliament.

"It was a terrible accident and I think everyone's heart is really heavy because of what has taken place," Gonsalves said in a radio interview.

Authorities did not identify the children, though their names were widely known on an island of only about 100,000 people. Secondary students are typically between the ages of 11 to 18 on St. Vincent. □

Venezuela:

Tensions boil over in president Maduro's absence

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A high-profile Venezu-

ing help for the financially struggling country.

Tensions have escalated in recent days as the social-

ment-run supermarkets.

Henrique Capriles, who nearly defeated Maduro in the 2013 presidential elec-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, left, shares a laugh with Algeria's Speaker of the Senate Abdelkader Bensalah upon arrival to the airport in Algiers, Algeria, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015. Maduro is touring several OPEC nations to drum up support for a production cut to boost prices.

(AP Photo/Sidali Djaboud)

elan opposition leader is calling for protests while President Nicolas Maduro travels abroad seek-

ist administration has deployed troops and implemented a rationing system to control lines at govern-

ment, said Monday that it was time for public demonstrations.

"We are in a state of emer-

gency," he said. "This is the time to mobilize in the streets"

Capriles did not support the protests called by more radical opposition leaders last spring. Those protests wracked the country for months and left more than 40 people dead.

Maduro has been out of the country for more than a week, visiting China and members of the oil cartel OPEC to push for a cut in output. Oil prices have fallen by more than half since June, battering Venezuela's already staggering economy.

Oil accounts for more than 95 percent of the South American country's export earnings.

Venezuela is seeing lines unheard of even in this shortage-plagued nation, with people lining up overnight to buy necessities like soap, milk and diapers. The state has deployed military guards to maintain order as stocks run low after long winter holidays. □

Freed Cuba dissidents praise detente efforts

ANNE GARCIA
ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban dissidents freed as part of a historic detente with the United States said Tuesday they support the warming of relations and predicted it will help their efforts to bring change inside their country.

Fifty-three dissidents were let go, most in the last week, as part of a deal that also saw both countries free high-profile prisoners charged with espionage and move to normalize relations after five decades of tension.

Some members of the

Cuban opposition have criticized the deal, saying Washington didn't win enough concessions — an argument echoed by critics of Cuba's government outside the country, such as U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, who called the deal "one-sided and misguided" on Tuesday.

"Will these 53 political prisoners be able to peacefully work in their country for freedom and human rights — or will they be thrown into Castro's gulags once again?" Menendez said on the Senate floor.

But freed dissidents interviewed by The Associated Press all expressed confi-

dence that the decrease in tensions with the U.S. will improve life in Cuba and make their activism easier. Angel Yunier Remon Arzaga, a rapper known as "The Critic," said the detente "gives me the strength to keep demanding our rights and freedoms."

Cuba has long described domestic dissenters as agents backed by the U.S. and by expatriate critics of leaders Fidel and Raul Castro.

Remon was arrested in 2013. He said state security agents painted his house with pro-government slogans, leading to a fight with police. He was sen-

tenced to six years for attacking state security.

Held five miles from his house in eastern Cuba, he was loaded into a car Thursday and driven outside the prison. "Right there they gave me a release document and said, 'Get out,'" Remon said.

"It's a hard blow against the regime when they themselves have to let out people when they supposedly had proof that they'd committed crimes," he said.

He called the U.S.-Cuba deal "a historic moment, an overwhelming event for my country, and I feel very proud." □

In Japan: Condos to loom over samurai graves

YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — The "47 ronin" samurai who inspired the long-loved saga of loyalty and honor eulogized in films, books and plays are fighting a new kind of battle in urban Japan.

An apartment complex is going up next to the curved tile-roofed Sengakuji temple where the three-century-old graves of the ronin, or masterless samurai, lie. The stone

year.

"People who come and pray here, including tourists from abroad, can't believe why this is being allowed," said Kenmyo Muta, a priest at the temple. "Anyone can see what it will do to this beautiful place."

The plight of the graves highlights the recurring struggles between commercial development and the effort to preserve history.

Although many European

taller construction, setting off controversies such as whether from-the-street view of Mount Fuji might get blocked.

No illegality is involved in the condominium's construction. The neighborhood around the temple has stayed quaint only because residents voluntarily kept buildings no higher than three stories.

There are no laws in that area to restrict the height of buildings, even if they're



In this Jan. 8, 2015 photo, a monk Kenmyo Muta bows at the condominium construction site and the gate of Sengakuji temple in Tokyo. The "47 ronin" samurai who inspired the long-loved saga of loyalty and honor eulogized in films, books and plays are fighting a new kind of battle in urban Japan. An apartment complex is going up next to the curved tile-roofed Sengakuji temple where the three-century-old graves of the ronin, or masterless samurai, lie. The banners at the temple gate reads: "Against the construction."

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

monuments, standing barely waist-high, are known here and elsewhere as a humble but proud testament to sacrificing one's life for what's right.

The Buddhist monks who are still praying for the souls of the ronin, visitors from near and far, and the neighborhood residents including those who run souvenir stores are all aghast. Nearly 2,000 people have signed a petition demanding a stop to the construction. Huge protest banners are up by the gate.

Plans show an eight-story condominium, measuring 24 meters (79 feet), dwarfing the graves and placing the temple's main wooden gate in its shadow. Building has already begun and construction is expected to be completed later this

and American cities work hard to maintain the old, Japanese cities often are a hodgepodge of cutting-edge futuristic buildings next to kitsch, if not slum-like, chaos, exemplified in sign posts galore and cheap erratic construction.

"What we are seeing here is the tragically common, ever repeating story, where a private gain is valued higher by the existing laws and planning regulations than the preservation of a public historical asset," said Christian Dimmer, assistant professor for urban design at the University of Tokyo.

Similar conflicts are unfolding around Japan, Dimmer said, especially as new earthquake-resistant technology allows for ever

right next to a site designated by the government as "historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments," as were the graves since 1922.

Damaging such a site is punishable by law. But not building right next to it, said Takahiko Noguchi, a city-planning official at Tokyo's Minato ward office.

"We do see the cultural heritage site as our treasure, and we want to protect it," he said. "But we cannot force a change or a stop to the plans."

Although protesters are asking the ward to buy the property and make it part of a tribute to the 47 ronin, Noguchi said no such funding decision was likely, as money must be allocated to projects that benefit the entire ward. □

Pope mania hits Philippines ahead of Pope Francis' visit

TERESA CEROJANO

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Well before Pope Francis' plane touches down in this Asian bastion of the Roman Catholic faith, Filipinos have been snapping their selfies beside his life-sized cutout image in churches and malls. His face beams from welcome posters, shirts, cookies, coins, stamps, coffee mugs and all imaginable mementoes.

There's even "Pope Francis, the Musical," in which the pontiff is portrayed singing a little One Direction. Filipinos have welcomed popes with rock-star intensity since 1970; the late John Paul II visited twice. Pope Francis' Jan. 15-19 trip, following his ongoing Sri Lanka visit, promises to be as big or bigger, in part because the country has many painful reasons to look for hope. The leader of the 1.2 billion-strong Catholic world will visit eastern Leyte province, where Typhoon Haiyan killed thousands and leveled entire villages in November 2013. In addition, the pontiff's focus on poverty, inequality and such social ills has resonated in this poor country of 100 million, where a tenth of the population work abroad to support their families back home.

"Filipinos are excited about the visit because people have a lot of problems and have been through a lot of calamities," retired government employee Josephine Graza told The Associated Press after Mass at a Catholic church in Manila. "They want to see the pope so their heavy hearts can be relieved, so their problems can be bearable."

"You always feel that he cares," said retired doctor Marina Bringas.

Pope mania has hit the road, cyberspace and the airwaves.

In Manila, a company sells 12-inch bespectacled Pope Francis dolls. T-shirts, button pins, posters, key chains and mugs with pictures of the pontiff smiling and waving are sold by Catholic charities, street vendors and online shopping sites. In northern Benguet province, an artist created pontiff bobblehead dolls, with one hand waving.

An official website runs a countdown to Francis' arrival and offers meticulous details of his visit and life, including the fact that he once worked as a nightclub bouncer.

Tarpaulins with Francis' smiling image line the spruced-up streets of Manila, where preparations for the visit have peaked. Three work days falling within his visit have been declared holidays. In churches, nine days of prayers for the pope's safety commenced Jan. 6.

In a country where singing is a passion, local artists have recorded at least two papal visit souvenir albums of mostly original songs. Manila Archbishop Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, known for his baritone, is one of the crooners.

With excitement building up, President Benigno Aquino III appealed on national television Monday for Filipinos to strictly follow security guidelines. He said while there are no direct threats to the pontiff, even an admirer trying to pass through barricades for a selfie, or to touch the pope's frock, could trigger a stampede. On Saturday at Manila's prestigious Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Rev. Enrique Luzung will play a dream role: the young Francis.

The 39-year-old theologian stars in the musical about the Argentinian pope's life, portraying him back when he was known as Jorge Mario Bergoglio. The show revolves around Francis' life and a visit to a fictional Philippine parish. □



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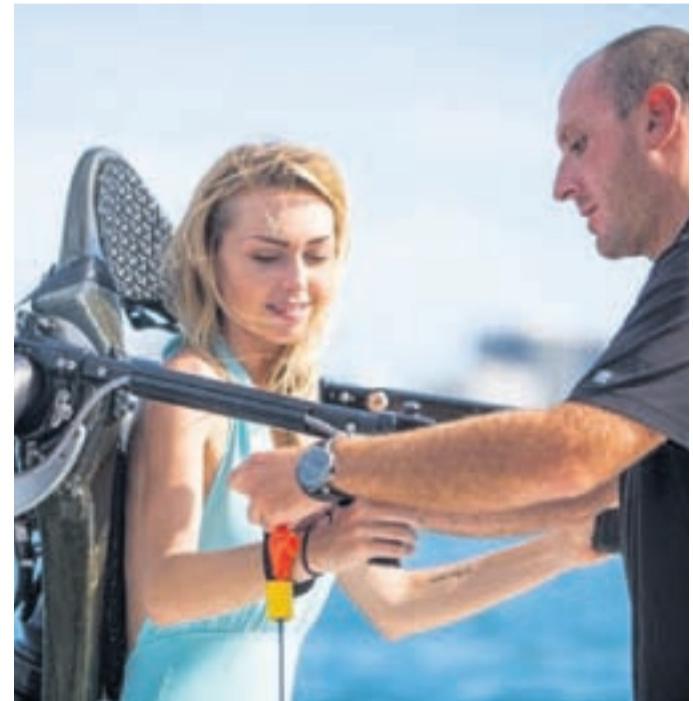
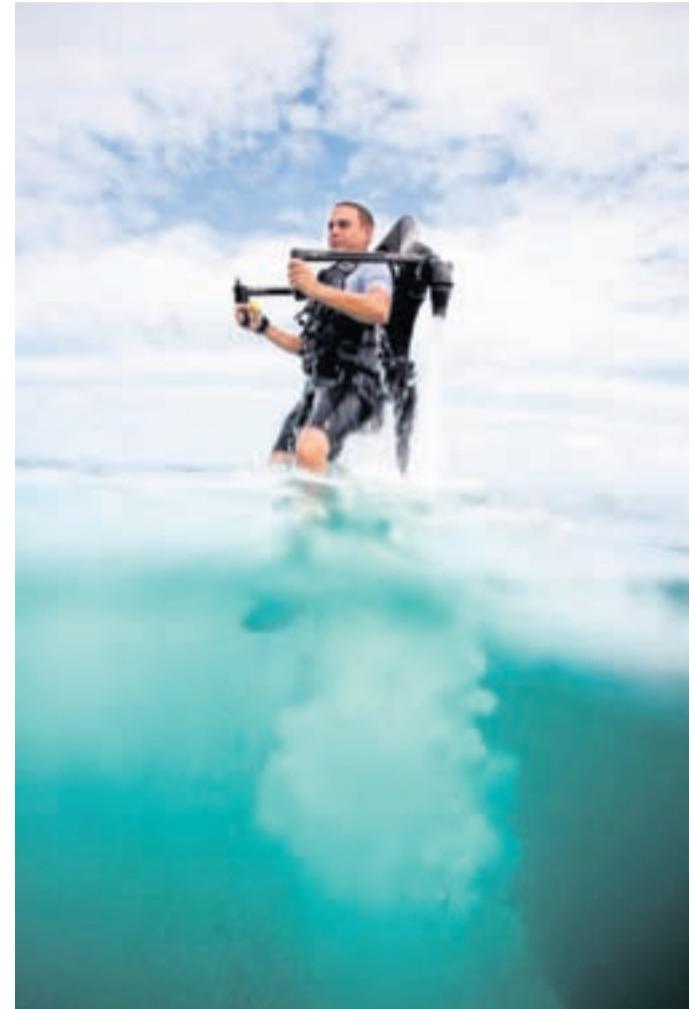
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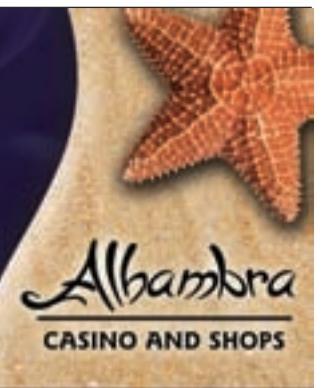


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A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the 'Best of the Year' awards with Diego Vazquez, from the Front Office, named the Employ-

est, enjoyed a delicious meal and then took high cheer to new heights, dancing to popular favorites provided by the live band, D'Licious, and enjoying the cultural classic of the visit by Dande. The award ceremony helped further define the evening, with excellence recognized among the entire staff and especially for its representatives for the 'Best of the Year'. □



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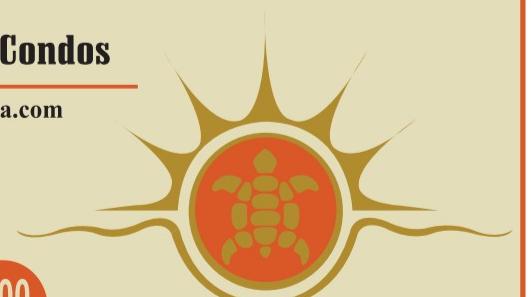
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of Bugaloe is the fun antics and interaction with the staff and dancing salsa on Wednesday nights till your feet ache! You might wonder why

they have been choosing Aruba for so many years? Well, it is simple says Dixie: "Aruba is beautiful and the people are wonderful and friendly. We just love walk-

ing on the beach, meeting new people and exploring new restaurants". When Dino and Dixie visit Aruba, they like staying at the Playa Linda Beach Resort.

The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Dino and Dixie for being such loyal Bugaloe guests, and hope to welcome them for 14 more years to come! □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Ohio State's Ezekiel Elliott runs for a touchdown during the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Oregon Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

New playoff draws larger TV audience for title game

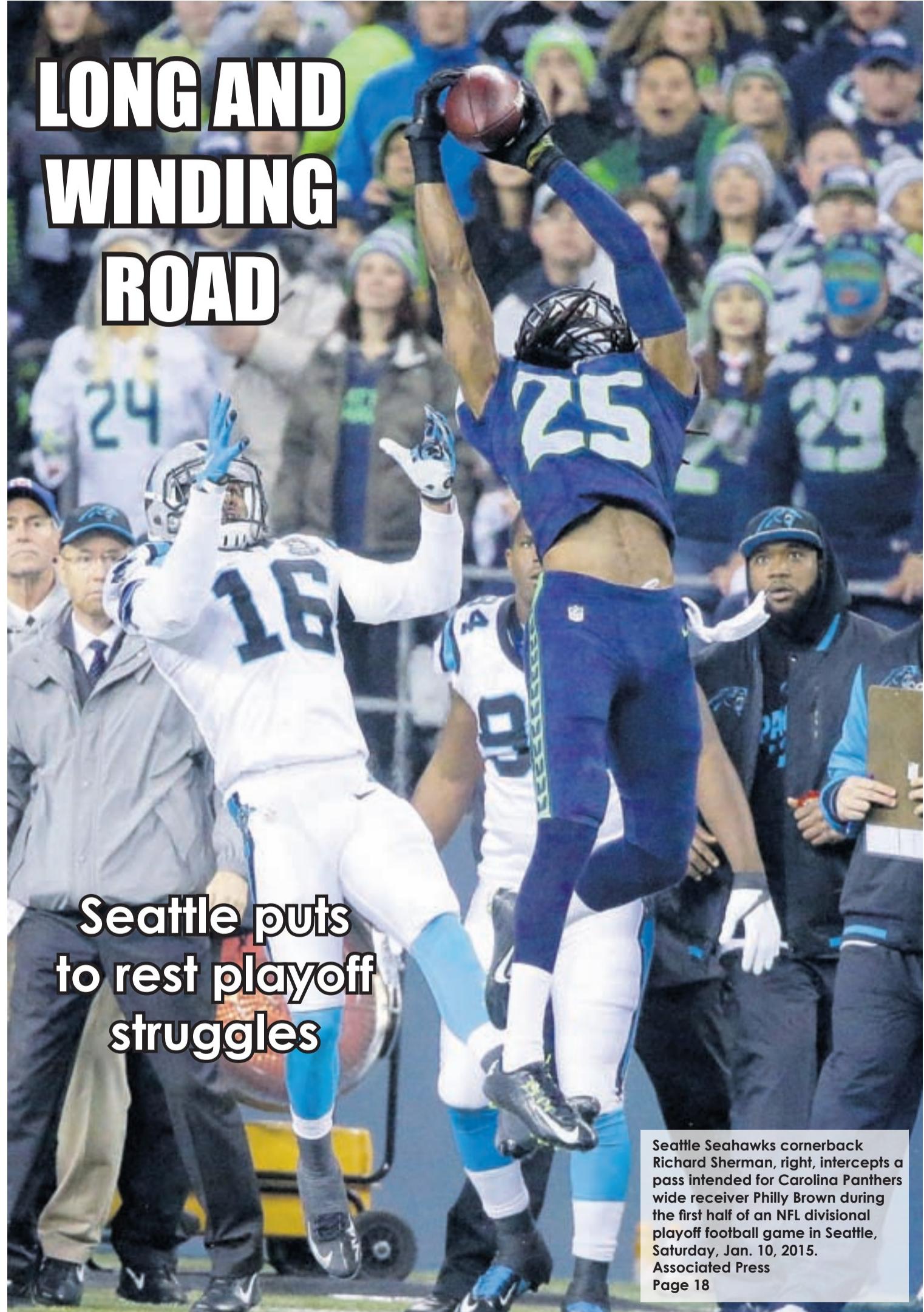
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)

— The new College Football Playoff succeeded in drawing a larger television audience to the championship game.

Ohio State's 42-20 victory over Oregon on Monday averaged nearly 33.4 million viewers on ESPN. The network said Tuesday that's up 31 percent from the almost 25.6 million for Florida State's win over Auburn last year in the final title game of the BCS era. The biggest audience for the four championships that had aired on ESPN was 27.3 million for the 2011 matchup between Auburn and Oregon.

The 18.2 rating Monday was the second-highest for a title game, behind the massive 21.7 for the 2006 classic between Texas and Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl.

The two semifinals had already drawn more viewers than any of the four championships on ESPN, making for the largest audiences in cable TV history before Monday's game.



Seattle puts to rest playoff struggles

Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman, right, intercepts a pass intended for Carolina Panthers wide receiver Philly Brown during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game in Seattle, Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015.

Associated Press
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The long and winding road to Super Bowl's doorstep

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

There are the 2007 Patriots, a juggernaut, and the 2014 not-so-dominant version.

There are the current Seahawks, not quite as fearsome as last year's championship edition.

Throw in a Packers team that doesn't much resemble the Lombardi squads, and a group of Colts who have experienced more ups and downs this season than the rest of this Final Four.

Yes, it's been a long and winding road to the conference title games for New England, Seattle, Green Bay and Indianapolis.

"It's been quite gratifying because of the challenge of answering the Super Bowl accomplishment," said Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, whose Seahawks were 3-3 and fighting off the championship hangover in October.

They've won 10 of 11 since, and their defense became immovable once All-Pro inside linebacker Bobby Wagner returned from a right foot injury.

"When I went into this year with the thought that this is a very unique chance at showing that you can handle all of that - it's been difficult for people and the history of it shows you that it's hard to come back and get yourself back into this kind of position again. So this is exactly where we'd hoped we would be right now. So that's something that we've accomplished; it's rewarding to this point." It should be. Until the Seahawks beat Carolina last Saturday, the last defending Super Bowl to win its next postseason game was New England - nine years ago.

Just as much in the doldrums back in early au-



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) scores on a four-yard touchdown run in the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Baltimore Ravens Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, in Foxborough, Mass.

tumn as the Seahawks: Tom Brady and the Patriots. They were 2-2, coming off an ugly loss at Kansas City in prime time.

The three-time Super Bowl winner had little cohesion with a mediocre group of wideouts other than Julian Edelman. Star tight end Rob Gronkowski was slowly coming back from injuries that basically wiped out his previous season. Questions abounded concerning the running game, the offensive line, and a defense that had been torched in two of the first four games. In the next 12 weeks, the Patriots won 10 times. Between Oct. 5 and Nov. 23, they never scored fewer than 27 points and averaged more than 39 points in a seven-game winning streak. Think New England straightened things out?

"It's hard to be oblivious to things," Brady said of commentaries that the Patriots

were no longer elite. "We all have TVs or the Internet, or the questions I get and the emails that I get from people that are concerned. Nobody died or anything. It's just a loss and I think we've always done a great job putting losses behind us quickly."

Coach Bill Belichick sees no magical formula for getting on the straight and narrow. "I think at this point really it's just about everybody doing their job," he said. "I don't think it really matters how many games you've played or how long you've been here."

Green Bay's issues in a 1-2 start - spotty offense, weak blocking, questions about the secondary - soon disappeared as the Packers won nine of 10.

But one bugaboo that never truly was answered could be especially damaging on Sunday at imposing CenturyLink Field:

an all-in against their team and the elements, the crowd and the noise. So yeah, you feed off that."

Indianapolis has fed off being considered an outsider in the AFC, and especially among the remaining quarter. The other three have Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks, for instance. Then again, the Colts might have the best bet for the future at the position in Andrew Luck.

Indy's losses (to Denver and Philadelphia to open the season, routs against Pittsburgh, Dallas and, yes, New England) were more notable than its victories, the best of which was a 27-0 romp past Cincinnati. The Colts looked vulnerable heading into January. Then came the latest twist: wins over the Bengals and at Denver.

"That's the whole point of playing every single week," defensive end Cory Redding said. "We don't want to be the best team Week 1 and then basically shut it down for the remainder of the season. We want to grow and get better week in and week out, and in doing so you're going to take some tough losses, and you have to learn from them and bounce back. That shows you the resiliency of this team. That shows you the heart of this team. That shows you the character of this team."

"Those are the things that we continue to keep doing and we're just playing at a high level right now because everybody's fighting for one another." □



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Rockets rout Nets 113-99 after Howard-Garnett scuffle

NBA Capsules

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — James Harden scored 30 points, carrying Houston on a night when Dwight Howard did little after fighting with Kevin Garnett, and the Rockets beat the slumping Brooklyn Nets 113-99 on Monday.

Garnett was ejected in the first quarter after head-butting Howard in the face and throwing the ball at him, while Howard received a technical foul after appearing to punch or slap Garnett in the neck. Howard had a quiet night otherwise, finishing with eight points and five rebounds, but the Rockets didn't need much in the middle while dominating from the outside with 16 3-pointers in 40 attempts.

Mason Plumlee scored a career-high 24 points for the Nets, who lost their sixth straight.

Houston has won four in a row, all by double digits, and blew away a Nets team that had held its previous eight opponents under 100 points, the longest streak in the NBA this season.

MAGIC 121, BULLS 114
CHICAGO (AP) — Nikola Vucevic had 33 points and 11 rebounds as Orlando ended a six-game losing streak with a victory over Chicago.

Orlando shot a season-high 59 percent from the field in its first win in Chicago since an 83-82 victory on Dec. 16, 2013. The Magic had lost three in a row and 12 of 15 against the Bulls since the start of the 2010-11 season. Victor Oladipo also scored 33 points for the Magic, and rookie Elfrid Payton added 10 points and seven

assists.

Vucevic was 16 for 24 from the field in his NBA-best 23rd double-double of the season.

Pau Gasol paced Chicago with 28 points and 14 rebounds, and Derrick Rose had 18 points and seven assists. Jimmy Butler finished with 17 points.

PISTONS 114, RAPTORS 111
TORONTO (AP) — Brandon Jennings had 34 points and 10 assists, and Detroit won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Greg Monroe had 22 points and 10 rebounds as the Pistons ended a four-game losing streak against Toronto. Jodie Meeks scored 11 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter and Jonas Jerebko had eight of his 10 in the final period.

Jonas Valanciunas scored a career-best 31 points and had 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost for the fifth time in six games. Kyle Lowry had 10 points and 12 assists, Greivis Vasquez scored 16 and Lou Williams had 15.

Andre Drummond also had a double-double in Detroit's sixth consecutive road win, finishing with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

CELTICS 108, PELICANS 100
BOSTON (AP) — Jared Sullinger had 27 points and 10 rebounds for Boston, and rookie Marcus Smart nailed a key 3-pointer in the closing minute.

The Celtics won for the third time in their last 12 games. Jae Crowder scored 22 points, Marcus Thornton had 13 and Brandon Bass finished with 12.

Anthony Davis led the Pelicans with 34 points, nine rebounds and four assists. Eric Gordon scored 21 points,

and Tyreke Evans had 19 points and eight boards. Clinging to a 101-100 lead, Avery Bradley's shot was blocked by Davis in the lane, before Smart nailed a 3 from the left corner, falling into the seats as the shot swished through the basket with 39.7 seconds left.

Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) goes to the basket against Brooklyn Nets' Mason Plumlee (1) during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in New York. Harden was charged with an offensive foul on the play.

Associated Press



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Flyers take off in 2nd to beat Lightning 7-3

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jake Voracek was one of five Flyers to score in the second period, leading Philadelphia to a 7-3 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Monday night.

Voracek, Pierre-Edouard Bellemare, Mark Streit and Brayden Schenn all scored in a 6 minute,

52-second span in the second to chase goalie Evgeni Nabokov and help the Flyers match a season high in goals. Michael Raffl also scored in the five-goal period.

Voracek boosted his NHL-best point total to 52. Claude Giroux, who turned 27,

had two assists to give him 34 on the season and match his teammate for the league lead. Voracek and Giroux were named NHL All-Stars over the weekend.

Even with the All-Star duo



Philadelphia Flyers' R.J. Umberger, right, scores a goal against Tampa Bay Lightning's Evgeni Nabokov, left, of Kazakhstan, and Mark Barberio during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

enjoying sensational seasons, the Flyers entered the game 14th in the Eastern Conference.

Philadelphia's Rob Zepp won his second career game in place of injured Steve Mason. Mason is ex-

pected to miss two weeks because of a lower-body injury.

CAPITALS 2, AVALANCHE 1 WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored a tie-breaking power-play goal late in the second period to help the Capitals beat the Avalanche.

Jay Beagle also scored and Braden Holtby stopped 31 shots to earn his 21st victory for the Capitals.

Alex Tanguay scored for the Avalanche, and Semyon Varlamov finished with 36 saves.

Ovechkin snapped a shot past Varlamov from left circle after passes from Troy Brouwer and Nicklas Backstrom with 2:14 left in the second period.

It was Ovechkin's 74th game-winning goal, moving him past Peter Bondra for first place in franchise history. Ovechkin also now has scored a goal in six of his last seven games.

KINGS 2, MAPLE LEAFS 0 LOS ANGELES (AP) — Martin Jones made 19 saves in his seventh career shutout, and Anze Kopitar scored in the opening minute of the Kings victory over the Maple Leafs.

Marian Gaborik got an empty-net goal to seal Jones' third shutout in his last four starts for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who snapped their three-game skid with just their second victory in seven games.

Jonathan Bernier stopped 18 shots by his former Los Angeles teammates in the Maple Leafs' third game under interim coach Peter Horachek, who will finish out the season after replacing the fired Randy Carlyle six days earlier.

Toronto opened a tough four-game West Coast road trip with its ninth loss in 12 games. □

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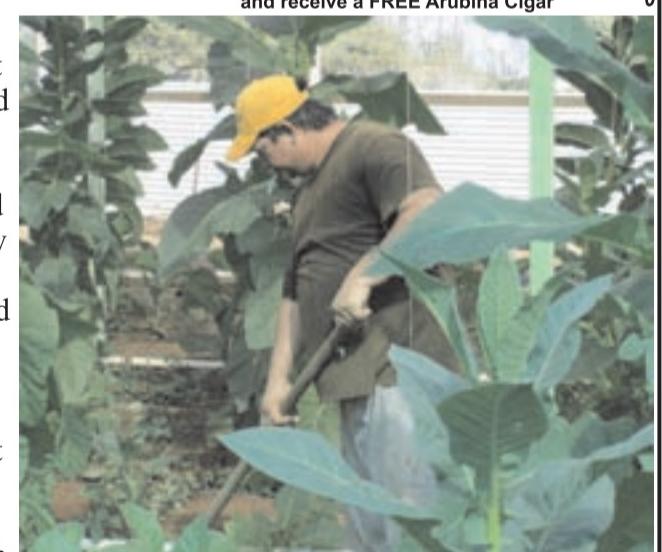
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi



Del Potro wins comeback match after 10-month injury layoff



Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina celebrates his win over Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine during their match at the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015.

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Juan Martin Del Potro launched his comeback from a serious wrist injury with a convincing 6-3, 7-6 (4) win over Sergiy Stakhovsky in the first round of the Sydney International on Tuesday.

The former U.S. Open champion is ranked No. 338 after undergoing surgery on his left wrist last year and missing more than 10 months on tour. He was granted a wild card to enter the main draw in Sydney, where he's the defending champion, but appeared to be fit and sharp in beating 69th-ranked Stakhovsky in 88 minutes. He will face top-seeded Fabio Fognini in the second round.

"These guys are playing all year. It's time to get back on the train again," del Potro said. "This tournament is very special to me." It was del Potro's second extended layoff with a wrist injury. After capturing his only Grand Slam title at the 2009 U.S. Open, he underwent surgery on his right wrist and was sidelined for eight months.

Bernard Tomic, the 2014 Sydney finalist, needed only 43 minutes to beat Igor Sijsling of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-2.

In other men's first-round matches, seventh-seeded

Jeremy Chardy of France had a 6-4, 6-4 win over Sam Querrey, Canada's Vasek Pospisil beat Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-3, 7-6 (4) and Viktor Troicki of Serbia ousted No. 8-seeded Martin Klizan of Slovakia 6-2, 6-3.

In women's second-round matches, No. 2-seeded Petra Kvitova had a 6-1, 7-5 win over Peng Shuai of China on a day when top-seeded Simona Halep withdrew from the tournament due to gastroenteritis. Garbine Muguruza of Spain ousted third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2, and her compatriot Carla Suarez Navarro beat sixth-seeded Ekaterina Makarova of Russia 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Dominika Cibulkova, the Australian Open finalist last year, was up a set and a break before losing momentum after a rain delay in her match against Australia's Jarmila Gajdosova, who came back to win 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria advanced when Madison Keys retired from their match when trailing 4-1 in the second set.

Barbora Zhalavova Strycova of the Czech Republic ousted local hope, former U.S. Open champion Samantha Stosur 7-6 (1), 6-2. In the Hobart International tournament, American

Sloane Stephens, the fifth seed, lost to Heather Watson of Britain 6-3, 6-1.

"I didn't do much wrong," Watson said. "I served well, returned well and didn't make many unforced errors and stayed aggressive." No. 9-seeded Roberta Vinci of Italy beat Annika Beck of Germany, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 and Japan's Kurumi Nara had a 7-6 (1), 6-4 win over Johanna Larsson of Sweden.

Americans Bob and Mike Bryan, the world's top-ranked doubles combination, suffered a shock 1-6, 7-6 (4), 11-9 loss to unseeded Andre Begemann of Germany and Robin Haase of the Netherlands in the first round of the ATP Tour's Heineken Open in Auckland. In singles, sixth-seeded Colombian Santiago Giraldo was beaten 6-2, 6-3 in the first round by qualifier Kenny de Schepper of France. Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta beat Croatian teenager Borna Coric 6-4, 6-3.

Diego Schwartzman of Argentina defeated seventh-seeded Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 while qualifier Jiri Vesely downed Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta beat Croatian teenager Borna Coric 6-4, 6-3.



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SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 12:10
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25
MON-THUR 3:50 | 5:45 | 8:10
FRI 3:50 | 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:45
SAT 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10

(PG-13)

ANNA KENDRICK | MERYL STREEP

INTO THE WOODS

MON-THUR 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
FRI 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
SAT 2:00 | 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:45

(Disney)

HELEN McCORMICK | JEREMY IRVINE

THE WOMAN IN BLACK 2: ANGEL OF DEATH

MON-THUR 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

(PG-13)

MARK WAHLBERG | JESSICA LANGE

THE GAMBLER

MON-THUR 7:00 | 9:30
FRI 7:00 | 9:30 | 12:00
SAT 7:00 | 9:30 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 7:00 | 9:30

BEN STILLER | ROBIN WILLIAMS

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB

MON-THUR 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20
FRI 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:40
SAT 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20

(PG)

IAN MCKELLER | MARTIN FREEMAN

THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES

MON-THUR 5:50 | 8:50
FRI 5:50 | 8:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50

(PG-13)

QUVENZHANE WALLIS | JAIME FOXX

Annie
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THUR 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
SAT 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10

(PG)

TOM MCGRATH | CHRIS MILLER

PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR

MON-THUR 5:20 | 8:50
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(PG)

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As newlyweds, Phyllis and I moved into a new apartment without the usual domestic objects. Neighbors, having purchased a new vacuum cleaner, donated their aged, "it does not work very well anymore" vacuum cleaner. Three points motivated me to accept this gift. One, wanting to get off on the right foot, I did not want to seem ungracious to new neighbors. Two, we did not have a vacuum, so one, even "working well anymore" was better than doing it the "elbow grease" way. And finally, as my buddy Bob reminds me, I hate throwing anything away; wanting instead to repair everything. I grew up in a car dealership; where to repair is noble.

Soon, the aged vacuum cleaner lay in pieces in the corner of our sparsely furnished living room. Slowly, lint, hair and dust were removed from electrical contacts, hearing shafts, and rotors. A family tradition was born. If it doesn't work, clean it. Within days we had a vacuum cleaner that had regained its youthful vigor.

Amazing how everything works better when cleaned. I am not even saying repaired, just cleaned! The same can be said about your body. We clean our clothes, our skin, our houses, our cars, our floors, but what about our insides? We can clean our large intestines with

Cleanliness is next to

a method called colon hydrotherapy. Since we introduced this procedure in Aruba at Viana Natural Healing Center we have seen small miracles take place.

Historically, colon hydrotherapy was a popular form of treatment among physicians in the 1930's and 40's and has been experiencing reappearance among natural physicians. "Colon lavage" was first recorded 1500 B.C., in the Ebers Papyrus, which dealt with ancient medical practices.

These enemas were described as the infusion of aqueous substances into the large intestine through the anus. Hippocrates, the "father" of allopathic medicine in the fourth and fifth Century B.C. recorded using enemas as a therapy for the reduction of fevers. In the second Century A.D., Galen, one of my heroes, also recognized and was an advocate of the use of enemas while strongly criticizing his contemporaries for their ignorance, greed, and superficial knowledge of the art of medicine. Also, Pare, the French surgeon, born in Laval, whose great practical skills and humaneness distinguished him from his contemporaries, in 1600 A.D., offered the first distinction between colon irrigation and the popular enema therapy of that age. We are talking about all the true medical greats here.

So what is it? Colon hydrotherapy is an extended and more complete form of an enema. The treatment is designed to cleanse above the rectum to the cecum. The cecum is the first part of the large intestine, located on the lower right side of the abdomen and having a worm-shaped tube branching off called the appendix. Colon

hydrotherapy involves the gentle infusion of warm filtered water into the rectum by the therapist or Natural Physician, using no chemicals or drugs. It is the natural solution to conditions, which interfere with the normal functions of the colon. The individual lies on his back, and water is mechanically infused into and out of the intestine without any assistance on the part of the patient. The out flowing water removes excess gas, mucus, infectious material and feces.

So why should a person consider colonic? An unclean, weak and poorly functioning colon is a breeding ground for disease, sickness and death. Natural Physicians will tell you that "old age starts in the colon". Serious health problems can develop if the colon is not properly cared for, and based on health statistics; colon health care in developed countries has been woefully neglected.

In the United States alone, over 400 million dollars is spent annually on laxatives. Laxatives act as chemical irritants and stimulate the muscular walls of the colon to abnormally contract to expel the irritating substances. It is very easy to become dependent upon these drugs. The oral route of administration is the least optimal method of evacuation of the large intestine. Very important digestive processes occurring higher up in the alimentary tract (stomach and small intestine) are interfered with. Most laxatives dehydrate or force the body to lose important water. Colon hydrotherapy alternately fills and empties the colon and improves the hydration status of the patient. A very good thing, since most people's bodies are severely lacking water. Additional health sta-

tistics tell us that this year an estimated 130,000 new cases of colon and rectal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, making it the fourth most common form of cancer among Americans.

Good colon health is as much a function of the quality of food, based on our blood type, we eat, as it is our elimination status. The Standard American/ Aruban Diet (SAD) comprised of refined, processed foods, high in saturated fats, sugar, flour, preservatives and low in fiber, inevitably causes problems for the colon. Over time, the colon loses the ability to process vital nutrients, absorb water and to eliminate fecal matter from the body, a condition commonly known as "constipation", making bowel movements infrequent, and difficult.

With constipation comes toxicity. Toxins present in the unhealthy colon can be transported into the circulatory system and soon the body may be unable to properly metabolize food and fat, or to provide vital energy for living! Colon toxicity can be the underlying cause of many commonly reported health problems and may indicate the need for colon hydrotherapy. Symptoms include: Constipation, Backaches, Diarrhea, Skin Problems, Difficult Weight Loss, Insomnia, Hypertension, Headaches, Arthritis, Bad Breath/Halitosis, Asthma, Allergies and this list could go on.

Intestinal cleansing is a therapeutic procedure, which addresses the cause or source of many of your medical problem. Other measures, especially allopathic drugs, which treat only the symptoms, will provide only temporary relief. Colon hydrotherapy could clean and dilute the toxin load in the

large intestine, resulting in a reduced burden on the liver, allowing the eliminative organs to function optimally. Colon hydrotherapy could also prevent stagnation and minimize the exposure of carcinogenic agents to the colon wall. The above combined effect may serve to rejuvenate the immunological system and truly be a pathway to vibrant health!

Get the point! Your colon, together with your lungs, skin and kidneys, are designed to keep you healthy by accomplish the essential task of the elimination of toxins in the intestines, blood and lymph systems. You know the saying says "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". Now you know why.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph.D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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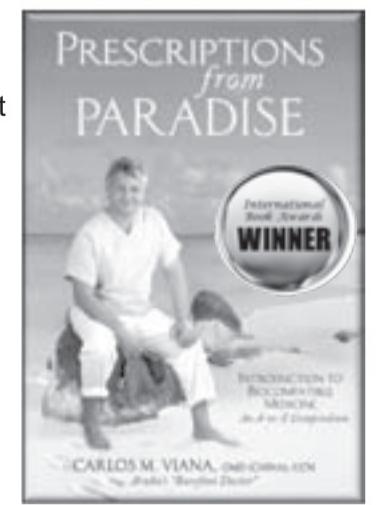
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Smart and pretty! Fashion designers spruce up smartwatches

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Smartwatches don't have to look ugly to be functional. Clothing and accessories designers are collaborating with engineers to produce computerized wristwatches that people will want to wear all day and night. With Apple Inc. preparing to release a watch line that includes an 18-karat gold edition, rivals know they need to think beyond devices that look like miniature computers — with their rectangular screens and wristbands made of rubber-like materials. If the watches aren't attractive, the market won't grow beyond a small niche of users. "The big brick on the wrist is not what a fashionable person is going to wear on a day-to-day basis," says Cindy Livingston, CEO of Sequel, a Timex business that makes traditional watches under the Guess clothing brand. That's especially so for women, she says — many of the existing smartwatches are simply too big for their wrists.

At the International CES gadget show in Las Vegas this week, Guess said it's partnering with Martian Watches to make a line of fashionable smartwatches. Guess took its leading line of traditional watches, Rigor, and incorporated Mar-

tian's technology. From a distance, the new Guess Connect watch looks like a Rigor, with analog hands and a crown, or dial, on the right. Closer inspection reveals the addition of two control buttons and a small, one-line display for notifications near 6 o'clock. LG, meanwhile, consulted with outside design experts and a sister company that makes fashion and home-decor products. Its first smartwatch was rectangular primarily because of production constraints. A round model followed just months later.

Other companies took fashion into account from the start. Burg's Dutch founder, Hermen van den Burg, has had 20 years of work in design. At CES, the company showcased new stainless-steel models and one with Swarovski crystals, both due out in March. Van den Burg says a watch, as something you wear, is highly personal and must fit your lifestyle. Cogito filled an in-house design studio in Paris with people from the fashion industry. Last summer's Classic model has room for just 24 characters of text, so that most of the face can be devoted to making the watch a watch. A fitness tracker coming this April will have interchangeable parts to add patterns on the rim.



The Guess Connect smartwatch, powered by Martian, is displayed at the Martian booth at the International CES Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

The Consumer Electronics Association projects that U.S. sales of wearable devices will reach 31 million this year, up 61 percent. Most will be health and fitness devices, such as step counters. Although general-purpose smartwatches are expected to reach just 11 million, or about a third of all wearable devices, that's more than quadruple what was sold in 2014. Those seeking specialized functions might not care about design, but those looking to wear something around the clock might, says Ralph de la Vega, head of AT&T's mobile and business solutions division. Apple will "raise the bar," de la Vega adds. "Others are going to have to work hard to stay up with it."

High fashion won't come

cheap. Health-tech company Withings hired traditional watch designers to make a fitness-tracking watch called Activite, pronounced Activity. It looks like a regular watch except for a second dial on the face to show progress toward that day's fitness goals. The watch can measure a lot more, but you'll need a smartphone app to view that. Activite is being manufactured at an unspecified watch factory in Switzerland, rather than in Asia, where consumer electronics are typically produced. With high-quality materials, including calf leather for the band, Activite costs \$450, compared with \$200 to \$300 for typical smartwatches today. But even at that price, Withings sold out an undisclosed

number in a day when it came out in November. At CES, Garmin says it partnered with designer Jonathan Adler to make patterned straps for its Vivofit 2 fitness tracker, to be sold in sets of three for \$40. And Sony is making a stainless steel edition of its SmartWatch 3 for \$50 more, or \$300. Efforts to make wearable technology more fashionable are intriguing, but companies will still need to convince consumers they need yet another device, says Jorge Aguilar at the brand-consulting firm Landor Associates. Apple is one of the few companies that might pull it off, he says, but even the iPad and iPhone maker still needs to make the case for yet another screen.

Apple has teased consumers with promises of an Apple Watch that can locate parked cars in a crowded lot or unlock hotel room doors with a tap. It will also make smaller versions, which might appeal to women, and designs and bands appropriate for different settings, such as a workout or a night out. But a lot still isn't known, including how much these fashionable configurations will cost. The base model will cost \$349. There's been speculation the gold edition could cost in the thousands of dollars.

Facebook launches Amber Alerts to help find missing children

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook users in the U.S. will soon receive Amber Alerts to help find missing children who may be located near them.

Facebook Inc. is working with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to send the alerts to users' mobile phones if they are in a search area where a child has been abducted. Facebook says people are already using its site to encourage their friends and family to help find missing children, and that several children have been reunited with their



This Friday, May 18, 2012, file photo shows a sign at Facebook's headquarters behind flowers in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

families as a result of information shared on the site. Last March, a missing

11-year-old girl was found in a South Carolina motel room when a motel clerk

called police after seeing an Amber Alert on Facebook, according to the company and reports at the time.

The Amber Alert warning system was started after the 1996 kidnapping and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman in Arlington, Texas. Since then, more than 700 children have been found as a direct result of the alerts. The alerts are issued over TV and radio, on highway signs, as text messages and over the Internet.

On Facebook, the alerts will include the missing child's photo and any other information that could be rel-

evant, said Emily Vacher, trust and safety manager at Facebook and former FBI agent. She said Facebook's Amber Alert distribution tool is "very comprehensive" and complements other systems that are out there now.

Text alerts and highway signs, for example, don't include photos, and the text alerts are limited to some 90 characters.

Vacher said the alerts will only go to people who may be in a position to help find the missing child.

"When people see this on Facebook we want them to know that this is a very rare occurrence," she said.

Portugal Telecom shares slide as \$8.7B deal postponed

BARRY HATTON

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) —

Portugal Telecom shares lost more value Tuesday as new doubts about the company's future — and legal questions about its recent past — eroded market confidence.

A day after the postponement of a shareholder decision on whether to sell the troubled company to

France's Altice for 7.4 billion euros (\$8.7 billion), the share price dropped 3.5 percent, to 0.69 euros — about the price of an espresso in a Lisbon cafe. In 2010, the year before Portugal needed an international bailout, the average share price was 11 euros. The disarray at what was once one of the country's biggest and most successful companies has reminded the Portuguese that, even

though the three-year bailout program is over, more problems may be lurking. Last summer's collapse of Banco Espírito Santo, Portugal's biggest listed bank, amid charges of fraud and the pre-Christmas jailing of 2005-2011 Prime Minister Jose Socrates on suspicion of corruption further undermined public faith in corporate culture and political leaders.

On top of that, the country's post-bailout economic health remains frail. There are doubts about whether Portugal managed to cut its budget deficit to 2.7 percent of gross domestic product last year, as promised. Public debt is almost 130 percent of GDP, one of the highest levels in the eurozone. Trading in Portugal Telecom's shares had been suspended since Friday, be-

cause the Lisbon stock exchange said the company had failed to disclose key information.

Portugal Telecom SGPS SA's share price has lost more than 80 percent of its value over the past 12 months, much of it since it loaned almost 900 million euros to an unrelated company — part of the Espírito Santo business empire — that went bankrupt. □

Wall Street ends see-saw day slightly lower on oil

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks swung from gains to losses and almost back again on Tuesday.

The U.S. market opened the day higher, getting a boost from encouraging news on hiring and small business confidence. The market then swooned in the afternoon as oil closed lower. The pendulum then swung back late in the day as oil gained in after-hours trading and stocks ended with small losses.

From peak to trough, the Dow Jones industrial average swung 425 points.

Stocks are having a jumpy start to the year as investors grapple with the potential impact of oil's plunge. The outlook for global growth also remains fuzzy as the U.S. recovery continues, but economies in Europe and Asia struggle.

Even though stock market volatility has picked up at the start of the year, investors should remain calm, said Janet Dougherty, a global investment specialist in Chicago at JPMorgan private bank.

"You have to remember that we've been through an extended period where there wasn't a lot of volatility in the equity markets, and now we're just getting back to normalized levels," Dougherty said.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index eased 5.23 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,023.03. The Dow fell 27.16 points, or 0.15 percent, to 17,613.68. The Nasdaq composite slipped 3.21 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 4,661.50.

Oil fell Tuesday after the energy minister for the United Arab Emirates said Tuesday there are no plans for OPEC to curb production to shore up falling crude prices. The price of oil has slumped almost 60 percent since last June as traders bet that the supply glut will persist.

"At a certain point oil has got to find a bottom," said Jeffrey Carbone, a partner at Cornerstone, a wealth manager. "But for that to happen, somebody is going to have to flinch and cut production."

The market also took a knock after the CEO of KB

Homes said that his company was experiencing soft demand in some markets. The comments caused the stock to plunge, dragging

gisted that the rapid pace of hiring in 2014 would continue this year. A separate survey showed that small businesses remain

they are confident that strong economic growth will create more demand for goods and services. Job openings rose 2.9 per-



Trader Gordon Charlop, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks swung from gains to losses and almost back again on Tuesday. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

other home builders lower. KB Home ended the day down \$2.70, or 16.3 percent, at \$13.87. The Standard & Poor's home building index dropped 3 percent.

The market's initial rise came after a survey sug-

confident for the outlook on growth.

U.S. employers advertised the most job openings in nearly 14 years in November, the Labor Department said. That suggests businesses are determined to keep adding staff because

cent to 4.97 million in November, the most since January 2001. More job vacancies generally lead to more hiring.

A survey on small business showed confidence rising to an 8-year high in December. □

Airbus, Boeing split annual airplane sales rivalry

DAVID McHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) —

Boeing Co. topped Airbus in deliveries to customers for the third straight year in 2014 — but the European aircraft manufacturer edged its U.S. rival in terms of future orders. Airbus, which is headquartered in Toulouse, France, reported Tuesday that it

delivered 629 planes, shy of Boeing's record 723 deliveries. But Airbus racked up 1,456 net new orders, just ahead of Boeing's 1,432. New orders are key to future market share.

Airbus and Boeing, which is based in Chicago and builds planes in the Seattle area and South Carolina, have built up huge order

books as profitable airlines look to refresh their fleets. Airbus CEO Fabrice Bregier called it "a landmark year" and pointed to the company's record order backlog of 6,386 planes, which equates to around nine years of production.

The company made the first delivery of its new A350XWB plane to Qatar Airways last

month. Airbus sales chief John Leahy called the sales battle "a draw" during the Airbus annual press conference, which was web-streamed from Toulouse.

"In terms of this duopoly, it seems to be stable at 50-50," he said.

Leahy and Bregier defended the company's A380 superjumbo despite slack-

ening demand and news media speculation about the plane's future. "I am confident that the A380's best days lie ahead," Bregier said.

Leahy said the market for such giant planes is small but that "we are absolutely dominating the market" because "we've got the right aircraft." □

France, the Crucible of Europe



ROSS DOUTHAT
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The France that endured a vicious terrorist attack last week is a France that has suffered, for decades and centuries, from anxieties about its own decline. And for good reason: Since the 18th century, when it bestrode Europe and seemed poised to dominate the globe, France has seen its relative power diminish, suffering defeats and humiliations at the hands of rival forces, from Britain's navies to Germany's jackboots to the invading might of American popular culture.

Now these longstanding anxieties have been thrown into relief by the murderous attack on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, an attack linked to all the various specters haunting contemporary France: fears of creeping Islamification and rising anti-Semitism, fears of the far right's growing power and anti-Muslim backlash - and all of it bound up in a larger sense, amid economic stagnation, of betrayal at the hands of the Continent's elite.

But notwithstanding these declinist fears, France isn't actually irrelevant or spent. Instead, it's arguably becoming more important, more central to the fate of Europe and the West.

No, the age of the Sun King isn't about to return. But politically, culturally, even intellectually, events in France over the next half-century could matter more than at any point since before the two world wars. Indeed, more than Germany or Greece or Britain or any other actor, it's in France that the fate of 21st-century Europe could ultimately be decided.

Consider the specific issue at the heart of the Hebdo nightmare: the question of whether European nation-states can successfully integrate Muslim immigrants, and what will happen if they don't.

Here France looks like the crucial test case. It has the largest Muslim population of any major European country, and parts of that population are more assimilated and others far more radicalized (16 percent of French citizens expressed support for the Islamic State in a poll last summer) than elsewhere on the Continent.

Not surprisingly, the response to Islam is divided as well: Muslims are regarded more favorably in France than elsewhere in Western Europe, and yet French politics features an increasingly potent far-right party, Marine Le Pen's National Front, whose electoral clout is now likely to in-

crease. Meanwhile, France's foreign policy has distinctive (often military) entanglements across Northern Africa and the Levant, which means the ripples from French domestic politics have more room to spread and then return.

So if there's a path to greater Muslim assimilation and inclusion, it's more likely to be pioneered in France. If Islamic radicalism is going to gain ground or mutate into something more pervasive and dangerous, it's also more likely to happen in France's sphere of influence than elsewhere. And if Europe's much-feared far right is going to complete its journey from the fringe to the mainstream, it will probably happen first in Paris.

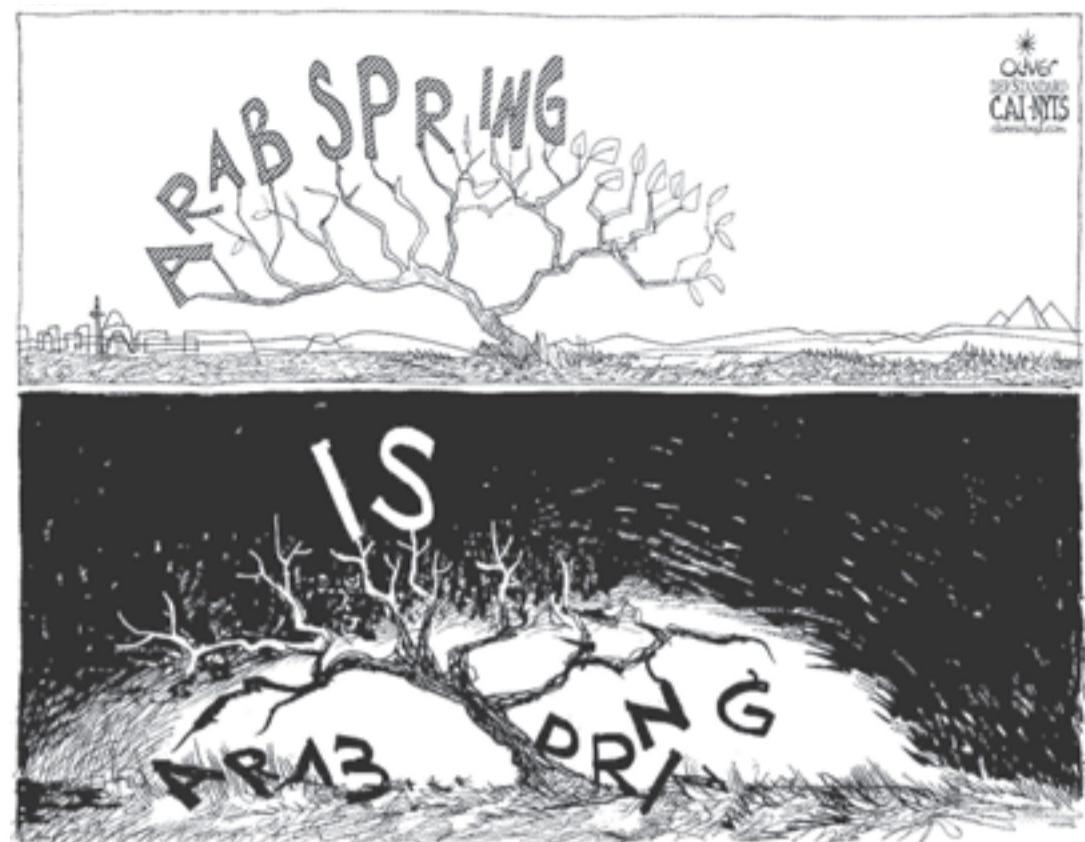
French politics is likewise central to the fate of the wider European Union project, which is in crisis at the moment because of the gulf between Germany's interests and the interests of the EU periphery, Greece and Italy and Spain. But that gulf (and the weight of 20th-century history) means that the Germans, however economically dominant, cannot hold the union together on their own. Instead it's France, for reasons of history and culture as well as geography, that has to bridge the divide between Europe's north and south and make the EU work politically. Unless, of course, the French gradually and fatefully choose not to, in which case the entire project will fall apart or be completely reconceived.

Either way, France's star may rise as Germany's descends. Demography, the source of so much Gallic anxiety in the past, suddenly has turned in France's favor:

The Germans are rich but aging, whereas even amid economic drift the French birthrate has risen sharply (suggesting a certain optimism amid the ennui). By the 2050s, under some scenarios, France could once again have the larger economy and population - making it either dominant in a more integrated Europe, or the most important power on a Continent more divided than today. Then amid these political and economic patterns there's an important intellectual possibility - namely, that if there's something beyond the West's current end-of-history torpor, some new ideological conflict or synthesis, it might emerge first in the place where so many revolutions had their birth.

France has always been a country of extremes - absolutist and republican, Catholic and anti-clerical, communist and fascist. Now it's once again the place where strong forces are colliding, and where the culture's uncertainties - about Islam, secularism, nationalism, Europe; about modernity itself - suggest that new ones might soon be born.

The decline has been real, but the future is unwritten. If there is real history yet to be made in Europe, for good or ill, it might be made first in la belle France. □



For the Love of Carbon



PAUL KRUGMAN
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It should come as no surprise that the very first move of the new Republican Senate is an attempt to push President Barack Obama into approving the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry oil from Canadian tar sands. After all, debts must be paid, and the oil and gas industry - which gave 87 percent of its 2014 campaign contributions to the GOP - expects to be rewarded for its support.

But why is this environmentally troubling project an urgent priority in a time of plunging world oil prices? Well, the party line, from people like Mitch McConnell, the new Senate majority leader, is that it's all about jobs. And it's true: Building Keystone XL could slightly increase U.S. employment. In fact, it might replace almost 5 percent of the jobs America has lost because of destructive cuts in federal spending, which were in turn the direct result of Republican blackmail over the debt ceiling.

Oh, and don't tell me that the cases are completely different. You can't consistently claim that pipeline spending creates jobs while government spending doesn't.

Let's back up for a minute and discuss economic principles.

For more than seven years - ever since the Bush-era housing and debt bubbles burst - the U.S. economy has suffered from inad-

equate demand. Total spending just hasn't been enough to fully employ the nation's resources. In such an environment, anything that increases spending creates jobs. And if private spending is depressed, a temporary rise in public spending can and should take its place. That's why a great majority of economists believe that the Obama stimulus did, in fact, reduce the unemployment rate compared with what it would have been without that stimulus.

From the beginning, however, Republican leaders have held the opposite view, insisting that we should slash public spending in the face of high unemployment. And they've gotten their way: The years after 2010, when Republicans took control of the House, were marked by an unprecedented decline in real government spending per capita, which leveled off only in 2014.

The evidence overwhelmingly indicates that this kind of fiscal austerity in a depressed economy is destructive; if the economic news has been better lately, it's probably in part because of the fact that federal, state and local governments have finally stopped cutting. And spending cuts have, in particular, cost a lot of jobs. When the Congressional Budget Office was asked how many jobs would be lost because of the sequester - the big cuts in federal spending that Republicans extracted in 2011 by threatening to push America into default - its best estimate was 900,000. And that's only part of the total loss.

Needless to say, the guilty parties here will never admit that they were wrong. But if you look at their behavior closely, you see clear signs that they don't really believe in their own doctrine. Consider, for example, the case of military spending. When it comes to possible cuts in defense contracts, politicians who loudly proclaim that every dollar the

government spends comes at the expense of the private sector suddenly begin talking about all the jobs that will be destroyed. They even begin talking about the multiplier effect, as reduced spending by defense workers leads to job losses in other industries. This is the phenomenon former Rep. Barney Frank dubbed "weaponized Keynesianism."

And the argument being made for Keystone XL is very similar; call it "carbonized Keynesianism." Yes, approving the pipeline would mobilize some money that would otherwise have sat idle, and in so doing create some jobs - 42,000 during the construction phase, according to the most widely cited estimate. (Once completed, the pipeline would employ only a few dozen workers.) But government spending on roads, bridges and schools would do the same thing.

And the job gains from the pipeline would, as I said, be only a tiny fraction - less than 5 percent - of the job losses from sequestration, which in turn are only part of the damage done by spending cuts in general. If McConnell and company really believe that we need more spending to create jobs, why not support a push to upgrade America's crumbling infrastructure?

So what should be done about Keystone XL? If you believe that it would be environmentally damaging - which I do - then you should be against it, and you should ignore the claims about job creation. The numbers being thrown around are tiny compared with the country's overall work force. And in any case, the jobs argument for the pipeline is basically a sick joke coming from people who have done all they can to destroy American jobs - and are now employing the very arguments they used to ridicule government job programs to justify a big giveaway to their friends in the fossil fuel industry. □

Conceptis Sudoku



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



			6	1			
		3		7	1		
	3					5	
4		8					5
3				1			8
7		6	5	3			4
1	9		7			4	
		8			5		
		7	9	5	2	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

1 / 14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	7	9	8	6	3	2	4	5
5	3	4	1	7	2	9	6	8
6	8	2	4	5	9	3	7	1
9	6	3	7	8	4	5	1	2
2	1	8	5	3	6	4	9	7
4	5	7	9	2	1	8	3	6
3	2	5	6	9	7	1	8	4
8	4	6	3	1	5	7	2	9
7	9	1	2	4	8	6	5	3

Yesterday's puzzle answer

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered entries. The grid consists of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space or obstacles. Numbered entries are as follows:

- 1: Across (11 letters)
- 2: Across (11 letters)
- 3: Across (11 letters)
- 4: Across (11 letters)
- 5: Across (11 letters)
- 6: Down (11 letters)
- 7: Down (11 letters)
- 8: Down (11 letters)
- 9: Down (11 letters)
- 10: Across (11 letters)
- 11: Across (11 letters)
- 12: Across (11 letters)
- 13: Across (11 letters)
- 14: Across (11 letters)
- 15: Across (11 letters)
- 16: Across (11 letters)
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- 62: Across (11 letters)
- 63: Across (11 letters)
- 64: Across (11 letters)
- 65: Across (11 letters)
- 66: Across (11 letters)
- 67: Across (11 letters)
- 68: Across (11 letters)
- 69: Across (11 letters)

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathew

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A crossword puzzle grid with blacked-out sections and some letters filled in. The visible words include RUMP, OVENS, STOP, APAR, PILOT, PAPA, YOYO, ENSUE, OXEN, ENSNARE, GENUINE, ONA, SALES, FRAUD, FIT, PEAKS, EARN, ARM, TASSEL, ACE, STOICAL, TAU, SENATE, LIE, HITS, TRADE, BAD, HARSH, VISOR, BIB, ARSENAL, NOMINEE, DEAR, XEROX, TUNA, ANNS, ERASE, ADDS, MODE, SOPHS, TEST.

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- | | | Tuesday's Puzzle Solved | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 42 | "John B"; Beach Boys hit | 4 Full of misgivings | R U M P | O V E N S |
| 44 | Takes a nap | 5 More annoying | A P A R | P I L O T |
| 46 | Poe's "Murders in the Morgue" | 6 Avoid, as one's duty | Y O Y O | E N S U E |
| 47 | Baffling question | 7 Shacks | E N S N A R E | G E N U I N E |
| 49 | Red, green or yellow fruits | 8 In the past | O N A | S A L E S |
| 51 | Spoke | 9 Legendary __ the Magician | F R A U D | F I T |
| 54 | Employ | 10 Trembles | E A R N | A R M |
| 55 | Dirty | 11 Slight coloring | A C E | S T O I C A L |
| 56 | Faithfulness | 12 Birch tree | S E N A T E | L I E |
| 60 | Roll call response | 13 Morning __; colorful flower | T R A D E | B A D |
| 61 | Related | 21 Firstborn of two | V I S O R | B I B |
| 63 | Maui greeting | 23 A single time | A R S E N A L | N O M I N E E |
| 64 | Peepers | 25 Pupil transports | D E A R | X E R O X |
| 65 | Circus shelter | 26 Possesses | A N N S | E R A S E |
| 66 | Dissuade | 27 Arrestee's hope | M O D E | S O P H S |
| 67 | Communists | 28 Therefore | | T E S T |
| 68 | Finales | 29 More peculiar | | |
| 69 | __ for; represent | 32 Publicized | | |
| | DOWN | 34 __ Grey tea | | |
| 1 | Bursts | 35 Classic board game | | |
| 2 | Come __; find | 36 Pegs for Tiger | 45 Bed coverings | 53 Exhausted |
| 3 | Scrabble piece | 38 Incurable | 48 Put to sleep | 54 Suggestions |
| | | 40 Prim | 50 Bit of hamster food | 56 Discover |
| | | 43 __ over; read intently | 51 One who helps you find a seat | 57 Greek letter |
| | | | 52 See eye __; agree | 58 And __ some; plus more |
| | | | | 59 Three feet |
| | | | | 62 Barbie's beau |

Classifieds

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This Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015 file photo shows, Wes Anderson at the 40th Annual Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards at InterContinental Los Angeles, Century City, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Linklater, Anderson, Eastwood among Directors Guild nominees

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Richard Linklater's 12-year film "Boyhood" is paying off with his first nomination from the Directors Guild of America, the organization announced Tuesday. Also nominated for their outstanding achievement in directing were first-time nominee Wes Anderson for the whimsical "Grand Budapest Hotel" and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu for his dark show business comedy "Birdman." Inarritu was previously nominated for "Babel."

Both Anderson and Inarritu lost out to Linklater for the best director Golden Globe on Sunday.

In an unexpected turn, rounding out the five slots were Morten Tyldum for his Alan Turing biopic "The Imitation Game" and Clint Eastwood for his wartime drama "American Sniper." This is Eastwood's fourth nomination. He previously won for "Million Dollar Baby" in 2004 and "Unforgiven" in 1992.

"Couldn't be more excited to be recognized by my peers," first-time nominee Tyldum said in a statement.

Meanwhile, David Fincher ("Gone Girl") and Ava DuVernay ("Selma") were surprisingly shut out of the nominations. Both were

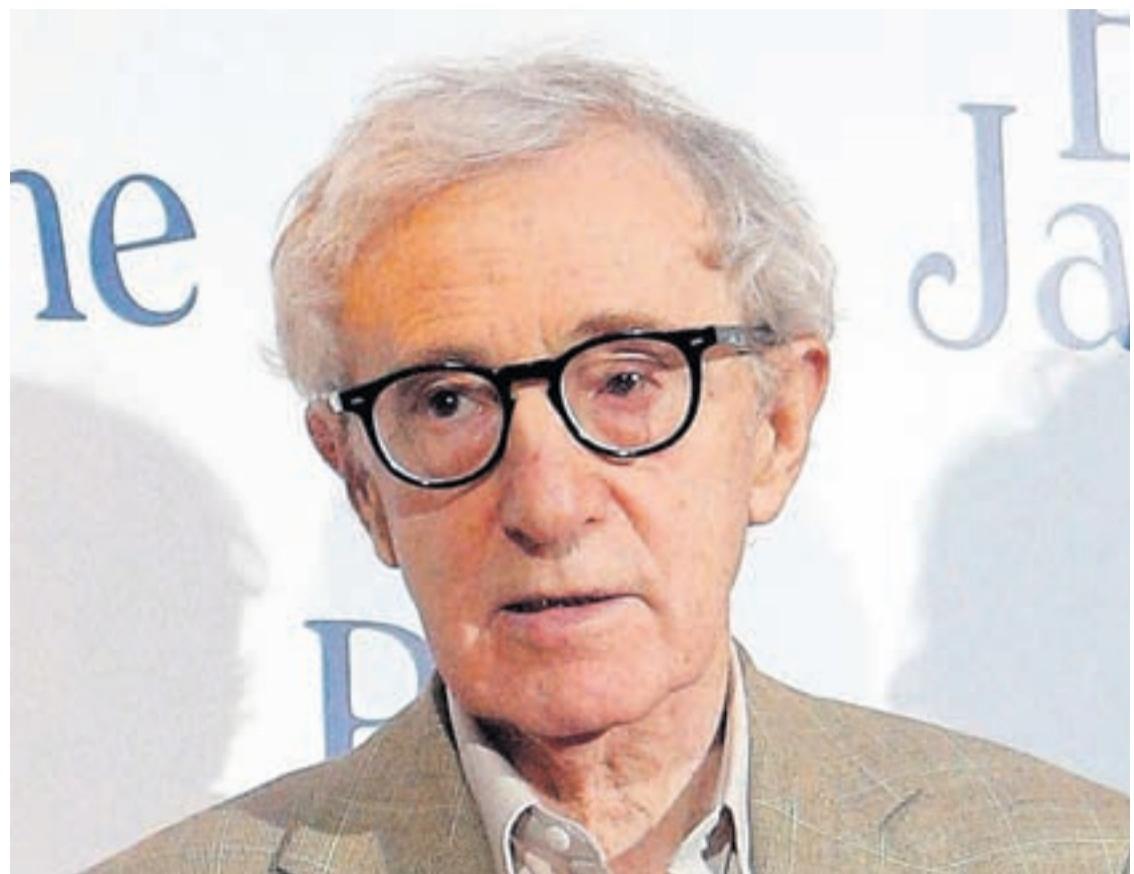
nominated for a Golden Globe and a Critics' Choice Movie Award and were considered strong possibilities for Directors Guild recognition.

Also noticeably absent were Angelina Jolie for her efforts on the World War II drama "Unbroken," Christopher Nolan for his space odyssey "Interstellar" and Bennett Miller for the true crime story "Foxcatcher." The awards are a strong predictor of the eventual Oscar recipient. Those nominations will be announced Thursday. There have been only seven times where the Directors Guild winner has not gone on to win the Oscar.

The most recent instance was in 2013, when Ben Affleck won the Directors Guild award for "Argo," while Ang Lee won the Oscar for "Life of Pi." Last year, Alfonso Cuarón won both awards for "Gravity." With nearly 16,000 members, including television and commercial directors, the Directors Guild nominees often reflect a more populist lineup when compared with the selections of the nearly 400 members of the directors' branch of the Academy.

Winners for the 67th annual Directors Guild awards will be announced at a dinner in Los Angeles on Feb. 7, hosted by Jane Lynch. □

Amazon signs Woody Allen to create his first TV series



This Aug. 27, 2013 file photo shows director and actor Woody Allen at the French premiere of "Blue Jasmine," in Paris.

Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon Studios is delivering Woody Allen as creator of his first-ever TV series. The Oscar-winning filmmaker will write and direct all of the episodes of the half-hour series. A full season has been ordered for Amazon's Prime Instant Video, the company announced Tuesday. The series is expected to premiere in 2016.

No details on casting were disclosed, nor was the series title announced.

Amazon Studios vice president Roy Price called Allen "a visionary creator who has made some of the greatest films of all time," keeping him "at the creative forefront of American cinema" during a career that spans 50 years. "I don't know how I got into this," the 79-year-old Allen said in a wryly modest statement. "I have no ideas and I'm not sure where to begin. My guess is that Roy Price will regret this."

Allen has mastermind-

ed and often starred in more than 40 films since his maiden directorial effort, "What's Up Tiger Lily?" in 1966. His latest movie project is "Magic in the Moonlight," released last year, with yet another film in the pipeline for this year.

The late 1970s saw two of his most celebrated films, "Annie Hall" and "Manhattan."

He has won four Oscars and two Golden Globes. Last year he was presented with the Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award.

But his skills were honed on television, where he first gained widespread notice in the early 1960s as a standup comic, and during the 1950s, when he wrote for Sid Caesar and other TV stars.

His prodigious output through the decades has also included magazine essays, books and plays. A musical adaptation of his 1994 film comedy, "Bullets Over Broadway," ran on Broadway last year.

Allen's signing adds yet

more luster to Amazon Studios. Its freshman series, "Transparent," on Sunday won two Golden Globes, including best comedy series, as it continues to help redefine what "television" means.

Amazon started Amazon studios in 2010 to develop full-length films and TV shows.

Morningstar analyst R.J. Hottovy estimates Amazon spent nearly \$2 billion on streaming license rights and original content in 2014, of which Amazon Studios would amount to about \$400 million.

Amazon's goal is not only to develop successful TV shows but also to grow its \$99 annual Prime loyalty program membership by bolstering the Prime Instant Video component of the loyalty program.

"I don't think it moves the needle on Prime membership yet, but I think it has the potential to do so as they build their catalog of original programming," said Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter. □

Perry: My female anthems make me ideal Super Bowl performer



In Nov. 26, 2014, file photo, pop star Katy Perry arrives for the Australian Recording Industry Association awards in Sydney.

RYAN PEARSON
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Katy Perry says her female empowerment anthems make her the ideal Super Bowl halftime performer after an NFL season shadowed by highly publicized domestic violence cases involving players.

Perry was in discussions with the league last year as it faced scrutiny over its handling of incidents including Baltimore Ravens star Ray Rice's elevator assault of his then-fiancee.

"It wasn't an image problem, it was a problem," Perry said in an interview last week. "We were all watching and asking ourselves questions about what this year would mean. But I think that the problem that the NFL is dealing with is a global problem... we need to work out — or educate people on."

"I'm all about female empowerment and uplifting people's spirits, and peo-

ple finding their own voice with songs like 'Roar' and 'Firework,' so maybe there is no better person" for the show, Perry added. "Hopefully I can bring that incredible strength and empowerment to people through the performance."

Perry promised a 12-minute mash-up of her hits, humor, multiple costume changes, at least two distinct "worlds" and special guests including Lenny Kravitz. She wouldn't comment on reports that she would perform an unreleased song.

The Super Bowl's massive TV audience — over 110 million people last year — makes the halftime show a much sought-after gig for musicians. So much so that the NFL reportedly asked Perry and other finalists to pay for the privilege of performing Feb. 1 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Perry adamantly didn't agree to that.

Associated Press

"I put my foot down very early in the courtship. I said, 'Look guys, here's where I draw a line in the sand,'" she said. "I want to be invited on my own merits and not with some fine print. I stuck to my position ... I don't even care if my contract leaks. ... I have nothing to hide, basically." The heavily scrutinized broadcast has led to controversy in the past — from Janet Jackson's 2004 "wardrobe malfunction" to M.I.A.'s middle finger flash when she assisted Madonna in 2012. Perry, 30, said she isn't about to risk anything with her biggest single audience ever. "Everything I've done in my career hasn't been blatant this or that. It's always with a wink. It's a soft-serve sexiness," Perry said. "My intention is that everyone talks about the music and nothing else. ... Sometimes you can't control other people. But I will control myself." □

Review: 'First Bad Man' is Miranda July's debut novel

THE FIRST BAD MAN
A NOVEL BY
MIRANDA JULY

This book cover image released by Scribner shows "The First Bad Man," by Miranda July. Associated Press

ANN LEVIN

Associated Press

The first sentence of Miranda July's debut novel, "The First Bad Man," suggests the almost surreal self-absorption of its problematic narrator: "I drove to the doctor's office as if I was starring in a movie Phillip was watching." Cheryl — 43, single and childless — has a crush on Phillip, a rich, aging hippie who sits on the board of the Los Angeles nonprofit where she works and lusts after a 16-year-old girl. She's on her way to the doctor — actually, a New Age practitioner of color therapy — because she suffers from globus hystericus, the anxiety-induced feeling of a lump in her throat that makes it hard to swallow. She has other problems as well: She secretly communes with babies — even fetuses — and believes that she and Phil were lovers in past lives. Over the course of this uneven novel, Cheryl will become reasonably normal and happy but only after she has endured a number of symbolically charged ordeals. She'll perform martial arts-style sparring that will leave her battered and bruised but feeling unaccountably empowered. She'll imagine strenuous sex with other women as if she were a man. And she'll become a surrogate mother and more to Clee, the 20-year-old daughter of her

bosses who is blond, buxom, beautiful — and a horrific bully.

Clee's parents made a fortune repackaging self-defense classes for women into up-tempo fitness DVDs, then moved to bucolic Ojai, California, to start a family. Now they're estranged from their child. "Everyone thinks it's such a terrific idea to move out of the city to raise your kids," Clee's mom laments. "Well, don't be surprised when that kid is pro-life and anti-gun control."

The novel works best when July is satirizing the entitled do-gooders in Cheryl's privileged circle, and she deftly captures Cheryl's ambivalence about millennials like Clee, who wears tight, low-slung sweatpants, "an accumulation of straps on her shoulders" (a bra and tank tops) and feels OK about being zaftig. "Whereas girls in my youth felt angry but directed it inward and cut themselves and became depressed," Cheryl thinks, "girls nowadays just went 'arrgh' and pushed someone into a wall."

But too much of the action, especially in the first half, comes off as metaphorical, giving the novel an anemic, otherworldly feel. July's storytelling skills crackle to life in the second half, however, with a riveting childbirth scenario fairly teeming with blood, breast milk and guts. □

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